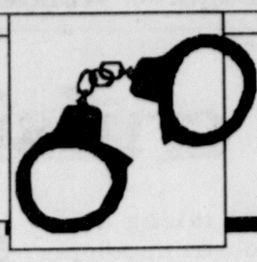
The mailbag overfloweth
OPINION, page 7

Happy
Independence Day!



Police log
Page 10

THE
NEWS-LEDGER

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35 Cents

38th Year ◆ No. 46 **Serving the West Sacramento Region Since 1964** **Wednesday, July 3, 2002**

County verifies signatures, sends initiative back to city council

KIMBER GODDARD

File photo by Barry Blacklaw

By Steve Marschke
News-Ledger Editor

It's official:

The "Premier City Initiative" will have to be dealt with by the City of West Sacramento.

"The signatures submitted with the initiative have been counted and it has qualified," said initiative proponent Kimber Goddard, vice president of the West Sacramento Quality Urbanization and Development group. "I just spoke with the county clerk's office, and they have verified it. They conducted a random sampling and verified the signatures."

The WS-QUAD group submitted over 3,500 signatures with the petition to place the initiative on the city ballot, and the county clerk's job was to make sure that enough of those signatures were valid that the petition represented at least 15 percent of the city's registered voters. The sampling proved that, said Goddard.

The initiative will now head to the West Sacramento City Council on July 10, and the council will have a chance to either turn the initiative into the law of the land, or send it to the voters.

Mayor Bill Kristoff told the News-Ledger yesterday that he thought the council would make the latter choice.

"I don't think the council is going to adopt it," said Kristoff. "I think the council is going to listen to the analysis by the staff, and then put it on the ballot."

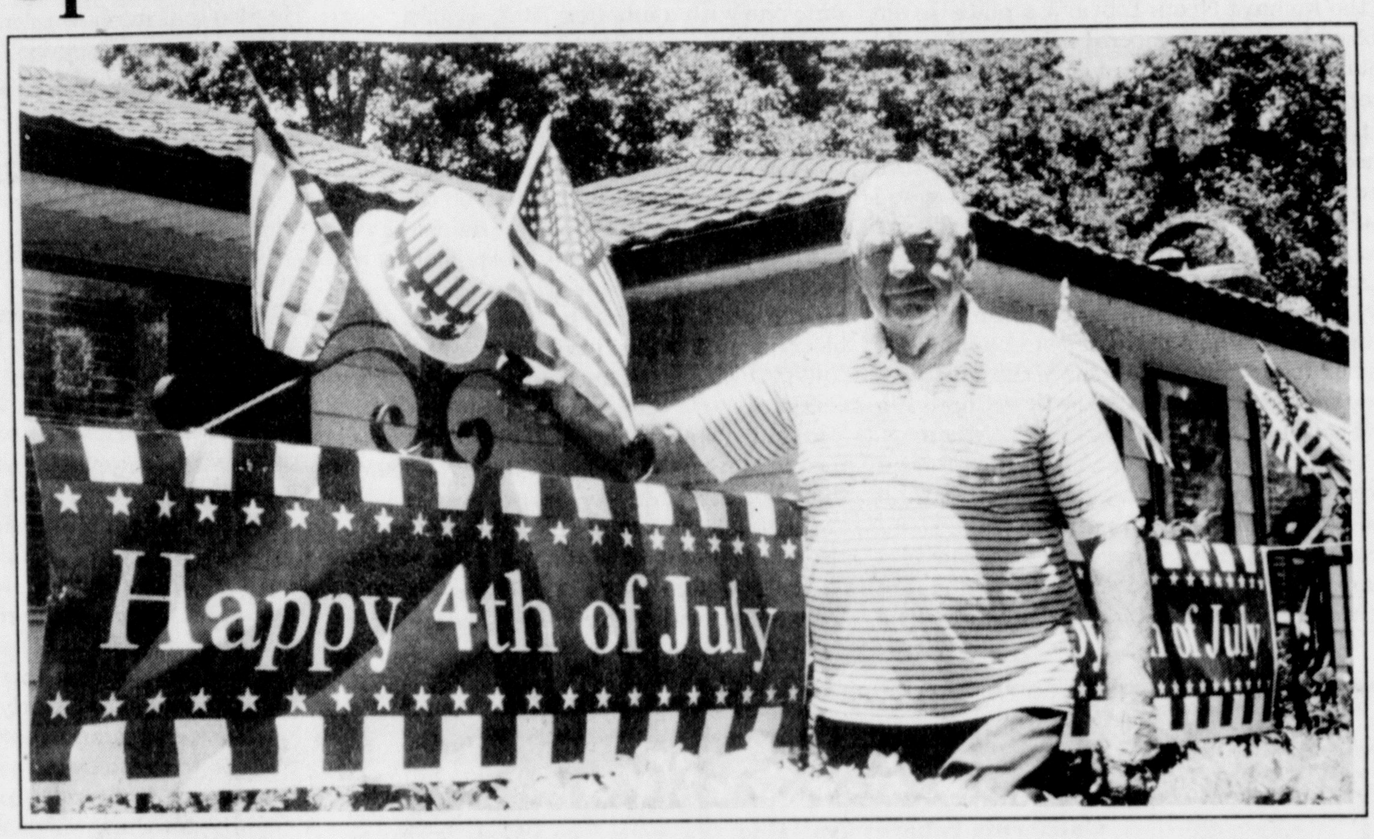
He added that he favors placing the initiative on the November general election ballot rather than create a special election for it.

The initiative seeks to discourage future city industrial growth, replacing it with commercial, housing and related development. It would also rezone – with some exceptions – industrial land in the city's southern half and industrial land owned by the Port of Sacramento.

Opponents include an alliance of labor unions that work at the port.

The council will order a detailed fiscal impact study of the initiative prior to the election.

Spirit of '76



Patriots and fans of Independence Day have long appreciated the Fourth of July yard displays created annually by Park Blvd. resident Homer Morris (shown above from a file photo). For health reasons, though, Morris is no longer putting up his locally-famous displays. He has passed along his red, white and blue materials to a relative to continue the tradition. Perhaps some other West Sacramentan will also help pick up the slack for this Independence Day holiday?

Into the future

Photo courtesy of Rusty C. Mendez

West Sacramento's chapter of Soroptimist International, the women's service organization, installed their new officers June 26 at a dinner at Vince's Italian Restaurant.

Lora Edwards headed the installation of new president Jeri Wingfield, secretary Lee Provost, treasurer Terri Escobar, and directors Janet Arunyakasem, Alma Soost, Jo Boyet and Marie Fourby/Gonzales.

Maple St. residents disrupted by report of man with gun barricaded in house

Police responded in heavy numbers to a report of a man armed with a handgun chasing somebody on the 700-block of Maple Street Wednesday evening. They set up a perimeter around the home and asked neighbors to stay in doors. Nearly seven hours later, at about 3:15 a.m. on Thursday, they forced entry into the "possibly barricaded" home.

But the suspect wasn't found in his residence, and local police said yesterday that the investigation still continues. They are not certain that a crime was indeed committed.

Fourth Street man killed, motive & details still unclear

By Steve Marschke
News-Ledger Editor

A Fourth Street man was apparently murdered in mid-June, and one suspect is in custody.

On June 13, police were notified by an acquaintance of a Daniel Martinez, 48-year old resident at 434 Fourth Street, that he had found Martinez dead.

"The time of death may have been a day or so earlier," said Lt. David Farmer of the West Sacramento Police Department. "We haven't received confirmation from the pathologist. We had received a call from a friend of his who had found him dead in his bedroom on the floor. We determined the cause of death was homicide."

Following a link to physical evidence, police arrested 23-year old transient Jason Lee Ancell on June 25 as Ancell was walking along F Street.

"He was charged with homicide," said Farmer. "He is currently in custody in Yolo County Jail."

Farmer added that "it appears that there were items taken from the victim," but declined to release other details of the investigation because it is still incomplete.

Anyone with information on the death is asked to call 372-2461 and request the investigations unit.

New school gets principal

Superintendent Stu Greenfeld announced last week the appointment of Grace Chin as the first principal of the new Bridgeway Island Elementary School, set to open next month.

"Ms Chin's qualifications, experience, and strong leadership skills are well suited to meet the many challenges of opening a brand new school," said Greenfeld. "Ms. Chin brought a superb vision and determination to Westfield Village School, where high achievement and language skills were the primary focus during the year she served as principal."

Following a 4-0 school board vote to grant Chin's request for transfer, she commented on her plans.

"Together with families and the staff, I will work to establish a school culture that will include high academic standards, a safe and supportive school environment, and parent involvement," she told the school board. "I also want to publicly thank the staff at Westfield for their dedication, hard work, support this year and for their generous and encouraging words at the last school board meeting.

The district is now seeking candidates to replace Chin at Westfield.

Free fireworks show—

Don't forget:

The annual "BridgeFest" celebration and free fireworks show is scheduled for Wednesday, July 3, with prime viewing area along the Daniel C. Palamidessi Bridge. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. Festivities start at 7 p.m. next to Stone Blvd., and include a kids' zone, entertainment, and a food and beverage court.

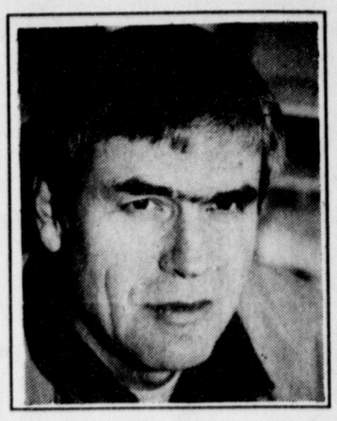
The bridge will close to car traffic at 6:30 p.m. The public is encouraged to park along Industrial Blvd. between Terminal St. and Harbor Blvd. Roads connecting to the bridge will also close at 6:30 p.m. and are expected to re-open when the fireworks show ends at 10:30 p.m.

The event is coordinated by the West Sacramento Chamber of Commerce. Sponsors include Southport Business Park, Bridgeway Island, Capitol Resort Hotel Casino, the Port of Sacramento and Ramco Enterprises.

Going cruisin' with Louis

Editor's note: Daryl is taking a few weeks summer vacation from column writing. Below is one of his favorite columns from the past.

My Back Pages



By Daryl Fisher

Awhile back, I drove down to Oakland to talk to some wonderful people from the Epilepsy League of the East Bay, who were getting together to promote an annual charity event that raises much needed funds for the thousands of Californians who suffer from that terrible disease. As I turned off the freeway and motored towards downtown Oakland, I wasn't a bit surprised to find that the directions I had been given weren't doing me much good. In fact, within five minutes of exiting the freeway, I was completely lost. Now most people absolutely hate to get lost, especially in large cities, but I learned long ago to just relax and look at it as kind of an adventure you wouldn't otherwise have.

For instance, once when I was lost in Los Angeles, I suddenly found myself right in front of the Richard Nixon Library, a place an old Robert Kennedy Democrat like myself would not normally seek out, but since I was already there, I decided to go inside and look around. It turned out to be a really interesting experience, and I even had this guy take my picture next to this big bust of Nixon's head just so I could irritate the heck out of some of my Democratic friends back in West Sacramento.

I'm afraid I have this long history of getting lost. Once, when I was a pointman in Vietnam, I got a whole platoon lost in a bunch of triple canopy jungle and some of the guys were sure we had marched all the way to Cambodia and back before I finally figured out where we were. So, being lost in Oakland didn't seem like all that much of a big deal, except for all the funny looks I was starting to get.

Suddenly it dawned on me that I was in a completely black neighborhood, and judging from some of the hard and puzzled expressions on the faces of most of the people standing around on the street corners I was passing, no one was exactly thrilled with my little visit.

I turned off a street named Telegraph and onto one with a number, 34th. By the time I reached the end of that block, it was obvious that I needed to stop and ask someone for directions. So, I pulled up in front of an elderly gentleman seated on the front stoop of an old rundown two story Victorian-style house. I got out of my truck and strolled up to the old man. He had a gold club in one hand and was turning the dial of a beat up radio with the other.

"Excuse me," I said as he looked down at me like I had just landed from another plant, "but could you please tell me how to find downtown Oakland."

He smiled and motioned for me to take a seat next to him on the stoop. "What's your name, son?" he asked me.

"Daryl," I said, sitting down next to him.

He stuck out an ancient hand and patted me on the shoulder. "I'm Louis," he said. "Now what brings you around these parts?"

Just as I began to open my mouth he suddenly waved for me to hold onto my answer as he had apparently come across the radio station he had been trying to locate. "You know," he added, "it ain't too often that a white boy like yourself pops up in this neighborhood."

"I'm lost," I explained.

"Oh, really?" he said, grinning from ear to ear and trying hard not to laugh. "Is that right? Now you know, I don't think I would ever have guessed that in a million years."

I returned his warm smile and he looked out towards the street and complimented me on how shiny and clean my pickup truck looked. "That's new, isn't it?" he asked me, pointing a bony finger at my truck.

"It's almost a year old," I answered.

"You know," explained Louis sadly, "I never owned a new car in my whole life. I mostly used the bus. Too late, now. I got cataracts in both eyes. Couldn't drive if I wanted to. I'm 76-years-old, you know."

As the minutes started to add up to an hour, it became obvious that Louis wasn't in any particular hurry to pass out directions, but he was incredibly knowledgeable on just about every other subject under the sun and seemed to be genuinely pleased to have a captive audience. I learned, among numerous other things, that Louis was a retired preacher, a decorated veteran of World War Two, and could have probably been the lightweight champion of the world if he had only had a decent manager. He also told me how proud he was to finally own his own house and that he was worried that his property value was going to start going down if the cops didn't stop finding dead bodies in the little park right across the street.

"What people need around here is jobs," he explained with passion. "Do you realize that almost no one in this whole neighborhood has a real job? There just aren't any. All these poor young kids really need is a decent job -- they're not all bad boys you know. In my day, at least there was work."

"Louis," I finally said, "I'm really late for an appointment in downtown Oakland. You got any idea how I can get there?"

"Well," he said with a mischievous smile that showed off the fact that through the years, Louis had lost most of his teeth, "I ain't much on explaining how to get from one place to another, but I could probably get you there, you know, if I was to ride along with you in that fancy new pickup truck of yours."

I took a long look over at the park where they kept finding all those dead bodies and said, "Louis, you got yourself a deal."

Obituaries

John Tomasello

John "Richard" Tomasello passed away at his home in West Sacramento at the age of 62 on June 30, 2002. He was the beloved husband of 41 years to Patsy Tomasello; the dear son of Charles Pedroza; the loving father of Tami Garfio and her husband Richard, and Todd Tomasello and his wife, Sharon; the dear brother of Sam and Joe Tomasello, Anna Whitaker, and Charlotte Hannemann; and the devoted grandfather of Anthony, Nicholas, Kaitlyn, Daniel, and Brandon. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joesph Tomasello and Helen Pedroza, and his sister, Poncy Gibbs. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

John was an active member of the I.L.W.U. Hall, local #17 for 25 years. His favorite pastime was deep sea fishing with family and friends. He was a native of San Francisco and a 59-year resident of West Sacramento.

Friends are invited to attend a Memorial Mass on Wednesday, July 3, 2002 at 9:30 a.m. in the Holy Cross Catholic Church, 1321 Anna Street. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Holy Cross School, 800 Todhunter Street, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

Arthur Martin Tracy

Arthur Tracy was born in Long Beach, California on November 19, 1925 and died in West Sacramento on May 9, 2002. He worked as a produce stocker and leaves behind two sisters. Burial was in the Veteran's Section of the Woodland Cemetery.

Anna Pearl Oubichon

Ann Oubichon was born in Oakland, California on October 4, 1913 and died in West Sacramento on June 16, 2002. She worked as a bank teller and leaves behind a son, Raymond Oubichon. Her cremains were placed in the Indigent Monument at the Woodland Cemetery.

ACROSS THE BRIDGE:

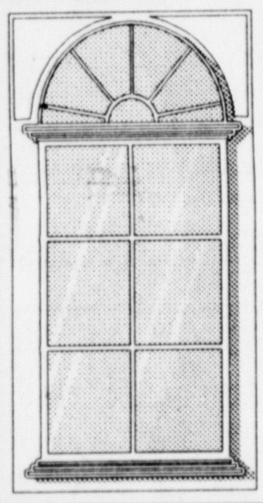
Events around the region

Antique quilt show

The Folsom History Museum's 22nd Annual Antique Quilt Show will open August 1st and continue throughout September. Forty heritage quilts will be shown, along with legends of quilts, related photographs, and 15 complete outfits of period clothing. The Museum is located at 823 Sutter Street in Historic

Please see BRIDGE, next page

AL'S GLASS



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The News-Ledger is a weekly newspaper published every Wednesday. It provides coverage by mail and other distribution to the city of West Sacramento, including the communities of West Sacramento, Bryte, Broderick and Southport.

The News-Ledger is a newspaper of general circulation by Yolo County Superior Court decrees No. 21893, dated June 1, 1967, and No. 29812, dated June 4, 1973.

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Richard Novoa,
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Barry Blacklaw,
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Daryl Fisher,
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News submissions: The *News-Ledger* welcomes information on local news and events. Please submit written news items to the below address by mail or in person, or through the office mail slot. News deadline is Friday before publication. Please include your name for attribution and your phone number in case we have any questions.

Opinion submissions: Letters to the Editor on topics of local interest are welcome. They must be signed, original, and must include the author's telephone number and address for verification. Letters should be brief and may be edited for length or objectionable or libelous content. Deadline is Friday before publication, and may be mailed or dropped off at the *News-Ledger* office.

Advertising: The deadline for classified advertisements is Monday at 5 p.m., and ads should be prepaid. An ad of up to 25 words costs $3.50, plus 10 cents for each additional word, per publication. Please mail ad and payment to the address below, or drop it off in the *News-Ledger* office or through the office mail slot.

Deadline for all other advertising is 5 p.m. on Friday. Please call 371-8030 for information on display advertising and advertising inserts.

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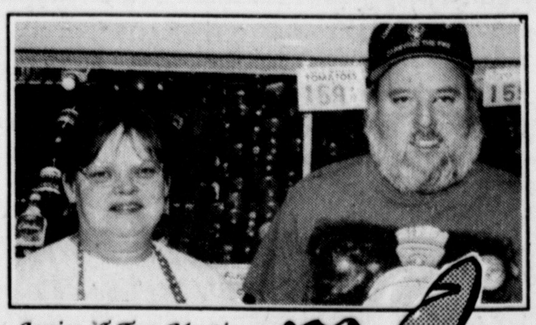

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BRIDGE: events around the region, from page two

Folsom. For more information, call 985-2707.

Summer sings

The Sacramento Choral Society will host Summer Sings on July 11th at the First United Methodist Church, 21st & J Streets, and on August 7th at the Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, 11427 Fair Oaks Boulevard. Both programs start at 7 p.m. The informal choral readings are open to all area singers. For more information, contact Jim McCormich at 965-0704.

Iris sale

The Sacramento Iris Society will hold their annual Iris Rhizome Sale on July 20th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A whole rainbow of colors will be on sale, along with demonstrations on planting irises and experienced growers to answer your questions. For more information, call 923-3536.

Old Cemetery tours

Sacramento's Historic City Cemetery will hold tours of 90 minutes in length on July 13th and 27th, beginning at 10 a.m. and commencing from the cemetery's main gate entrance, Broadway at 10th Street in Sacramento. The tours will be devoted to "Makers & Shakers", and "Lawmen & Desperadoes". For more information, call 446-8381.

Art exhibit

The Crocker Art Museum will exhibit "The Gilded Age: Treasures from the Smithsonian American Art Museum" from August 10th to October 6th. The exhibit will include 60 major works by the most important artists of the day.

Shakespeare festival

The 2002 Sacramento Shakespeare Festival opens on June 28th in William Land Park with a production of *Much Ado About Nothing*, followed by *Henry V* on July 5th. Tickets are $12 for general admission, and $10 for students. No reservations are taken and gates open at 6:30 p.m. For further information, call 558-2228.

Celebrate America

The Lodi Arts Commission will host its annual Celebrate America event at Hutchins Street Square in Lodi on July 3rd, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The outdoor event features grass seating and families are encouraged to bring a blanket and picnic basket dinner. The first 1000 guests will receive a complimentary American Flag. For more information, contact Ashleigh at 209-333-6782.

Folsom Pro Rodeo

The Folsom Pro Rodeo will be held on July 3-6 at the Folsom City Park. On July 1 at noon there will be a Kickoff Cattle Drive beginning in the park. Cowboys on horseback will be driving the cattle through the streets of Folsom. For more information, call the Folsom Chamber of Commerce at 985-5555.

Eppie's Great Race

Volunteers are needed for the 29th Annual Eppie's Great Race, which will take place on July 20th. This is the perfect opportunity for groups and individuals to work together and provide a helping hand for one of Sacramento's premiere sporting events. For more information, call 875-6640.

Chinese dinner/lecture

The 6th annual Chinese American Council of Sacramento author/lecture/dinner will be held at the New Canton Restaurant on July 12th at 6:30 p.m. Lisa See, author of "On Gold Mountain", will speak on the subject of Chinese American settlements in Southern California. For more information, contact Douglas or Karun at 481-9247 or 972-9133.

Classes at the Towe Auto Museum

Three children's engine classes, titled "How an Engine Works" will be given this summer at the Towe Auto Museum, 2200 Front Street in Sacramento. The course is set up for 5th through 8th grades and is a 2 to 3 hour session. Cost is $10 per student. For more information, call 442-2646.

Newcomers meet

Newcomers and Neighbors of the Greater Sacramento Area holds a monthly coffee the first Thursday of every month at 10 am. For location and further information call 984-1237.

Senior peer counseling

Free training sessions are being held for people interested in being a Senior Peer Counselor. If you think you might be interested in spending an hour or so once a week with an "older adult", call 855-5444.

Senior exercise classes

InfoLine Sacramento has compiled a list of exercise programs especially designed for older people. To receive a free copy of this list, call 498-1000. InfoLine is a program of the Community Services Planning Council and provides free telephone information and referral services. The program operates Monday thru Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Dance troupers entertain

The West Sacramento Golden Years Club reports a successful "luau dinner" last month, prepared and served by the women's auxiliary of VFW Post 8762. Entertainment was provided by the Dance Factory in West Sacramento.

Performers included Brianna Frenk, Jessica Freitas, Stephanie Johnson, Samantha MacDonald, Christine Martinez and Sarah Martinez.

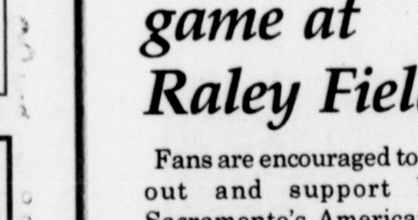
Local All-Stars play Sunday at Natomas

The 9-10-year-old West Sacramento Little League All-Stars will play Natomas at Sierra Little League at 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 7th. The 11-12-year-olds will play Town & Country at West Sacramento's Memorial Park at 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 6th. The Junior All-Stars will play Town & Country at Washington Little League at 1 p.m. on July 6th. And the Senior All-Stars will play at Rio Linda Little League at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 8th.

Come & watch local American Legion baseball game at Raley Field

Fans are encouraged to come out and support West Sacramento's American Legion baseball team when they play Manhart and Norte Del Rio in a double-header on Monday, July 8th at Raley Field, starting at 4 p.m. It's quite a thrill for these young West Sacramento athletes to play on a such a great baseball field and they are looking forward to it with great anticipation.

The West Sacramento American Legion baseball team's record is 15 wins and 5 losses, putting them right in the hunt for the league title and the playoffs. Although the games are free, donations to help support the team would be much appreciated.



1. Of the first five American League Championship Series, how many involved the Baltimore Orioles?
2. Who was the first player to hit a home run from both sides of the plate in a game three times during a given season?
3. Entering 2002, in what place was O.J. Simpson on the NFL list of all-time leaders in rushing yards?
4. When was the last time before 2002 that the Pitt men's basketball team made the NCAA Tournament?
5. When was the last time (not counting the shortened 1994-95 season) that the NHL scoring leader had fewer than 90 points?
6. Name the only horse with an undefeated record to win the Triple Crown.
7. Who was the first player to sign with Major League Soccer?

Answers On Back Page

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Filed May 29, 2002
File No. 2002-482

The following person is doing business as A&S Mini Storage, LLC, 3724 Pinot Ct., Pleasanton, CA 94566-7247:

Philip Fong and Eleanor Fong, 3724 Pinot Ct., Pleasanton, CA 94566; Arthur Dare and Susan W. Dare, 1115 Blythe St., Foster City, CA 94404; John Ichiuji, 9260 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon, CA 94583.

This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Aug. 31, 1988. Previous fictitious business name number 88-506.

/s/Philip Fong

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the original document on file in this office. This certification is true as long as there are no alterations to the document, AND as long as the document is sealed with a red seal.

State of California
County of Yolo
Tony Bernhard, County Clerk
Date: May 24, 2002
by: /s/Ava Woodard, Deputy Clerk

June 19 26 July 3 10

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF JAMES HENRY McNEIL, also known as JAMES H. McNEIL and JAMES HENRY McNEIL, JR.
CASE NUMBER PB02-117

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of James Henry McNeil, also known as James H. McNeil and James Henry McNeil, Jr.

A PETITION has been filed by Jennie E. McNeil in the Superior Court of Yolo, County of Yolo.

THE PETITION requests that Jennie E. McNeil be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A continued HEARING on the petition will be held on July 17, 2002, at 8:30 a.m. at Dept. 5 at Yolo County Superior Court, 725 Court St., Woodland, CA 95695.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a "Request for Special Notice" (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A "Request for Special Notice" form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner:
/s/Gene E. Pendergast, Jr.
Wilke, Fleury, et. Al
400 Capitol Mall, 22nd Floor
Sacramento CA 95814
(916) 414-2430

June 19 26 July 3

Fictitious Business Name Statement
Filed May 29, 2002
File No. 2002-483

The following person is doing business as Best Value Inn, 3930 County Road 89, Dunnigan CA 95937:

Kiran LLC (California), PO Box 20836, San Jose, CA 95160.

This business is conducted by a Corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 5/1/02.

/s/Kishor Patel, Member
Kiran LLC

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the original document on file in this office. This certification is true as long as there are no alterations to the document, AND as long as the document is sealed with a red seal.

State of California
County of Yolo
Tony Bernhard, County Clerk
Date: May 22, 2002
by: /s/Ava Woodard, Deputy Clerk

June 26 July 3 10 17

Fictitious Business Name Statement
Filed JUNE 11, 2002
File No. 2002-533

The following person is doing business as North Valley Enterprises; North Valley Investors; Miriams Gifts; miriamsgifts.com; 1959 Lake Blvd. #174, Davis CA 95616:

Brian Eusebio, same address.

This business is conducted by an Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on June 11, 2002.

/s/Brian James Eusebio

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the original document on file in this office. This certification is true as long as there are no alterations to the document, AND as long as the document is sealed with a red seal.

State of California
County of Yolo
Tony Bernhard, County Clerk
Date: June 11, 2002
by: /s/Vikki Wittig, Deputy Clerk

June 26 July 3 10 17

Fictitious Business Name Statement
Filed JUNE 3, 2002
File No. 2002-504

The following person is doing business as KSM Investments, 2761 Airons Court, West Sacramento CA 95691:

F. Michael Kohn and Judy L. Kohn, same address as above.

This business is conducted by an Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 2-15-97.

/s/F. Michael Kohn

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the original document on file in this office. This certification is true as long as there are no alterations to the document, AND as long as the document is sealed with a red seal.

State of California
County of Yolo
Tony Bernhard, County Clerk
Date: June 3, 2002
by: /s/Ava Woodard, Deputy Clerk

June 26 July 3 10 17

Fictitious Business Name Statement
Filed JUNE 20, 2002
File No. 2002-555

The following person is doing business as ProCharms, 3425 St. Croix Rd., West Sacramento, CA 95691:

Jennifer Kay Gonzales, same address as above.

This business is conducted by an Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 6/20/02.

/s/Jennifer Gonzales

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the original document on file in this office. This certification is true as long as there are no alterations to the document, AND as long as the document is sealed with a red seal.

State of California
County of Yolo
Tony Bernhard, County Clerk
Date: June 20, 2002
by: /s/Ava Woodard, Deputy Clerk

June 26 July 3 10 17

Fictitious Business Name Statement
Filed JUNE 6, 2002
File No. 2002-523

The following person is doing business as GENXTOYS, 888 Browning Circle, Woodland CA 95776:

Gabriel Felix Montoya, same address.

This business is conducted by an Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 6/4/02.

/s/Gabriel F. Montoya

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the original document on file in this office. This certification is true as long as there are no alterations to the document, AND as long as the document is sealed with a red seal.

State of California
County of Yolo
Tony Bernhard, County Clerk
Date: June 6, 2002
by: /s/Debbie M. Holck, Deputy Clerk

June 26 July 3 10 17

Fictitious Business Name Statement
Filed June 3, 2002
File No. 2002-505

The following person is doing business as Aggie Landscape, 8250 Freeport Blvd., Sacramento CA 95832:

Bryen Forrester, same address.

This business is conducted by an Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 6/1/02.

/s/Bryen Forrester

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the original document on file in this office. This certification is true as long as there are no alterations to the document, AND as long as the document is sealed with a red seal.

State of California
County of Yolo
Tony Bernhard, County Clerk
Date: June 3, 2002
by: /s/Ava Woodard, Deputy Clerk

June 26 July 3 10 17

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF CLEO FRANCES ROBERTS
CASE NUMBER PB02-165

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of Cleo Frances Roberts, Cleo F. Roberts, Cleo Roberts:

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Mary Jones in the Superior Court of Yolo, County of Yolo.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Mary Jones be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on July 15, 2002, at 8:30 a.m. at Dept. 5 at Yolo County Superior Court, 725 Court St., Woodland, CA 95695.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a "Request for Special Notice" (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A "Request for Special Notice" form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner:
/s/Richard H. Will
2001 21st Street, Suite 200
Sacramento CA 95818
916-456-3226

June 26 July 3 10

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER PT02-814

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner Marialena Tabilio Dida filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present name: Marialena Tabilio Dida

Proposed name: Marialena Dida Tabilio

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.

Notice of Hearing: Date July 31, 2002; Time: 8:30 a.m.; Dept. 5; at Superior Court of California, County of Yolo, 725 Court Street, Woodland, CA 95695.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for the heaing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: News-Ledger.

Date: June 14, 2002
TIMOTHY L. FALL
Judge of the Superior Court

June 26 July 3 10 17

The area of Buffalo Niagara has amusement parks, museums and a set of famous falls that can make a splash with visitors.

Because of its proximity to Canada, Buffalo has been described as giving visitors two countries for the price of one. Here are some of the area's attractions to check out:

- Amazing Amusement Parks. The area is home to Six Flags Darien Lake and Martin's Fantasy Island.
- Erie Canal Cruises. Step aboard a Canal boat and make your way west—the way the settlers of the mid-1800s did.
- Magnificent Modern Art. The Albright-Knox Art Gallery has been called an "overwhelming art experience."
- Old Fort Niagara. This site at the mouth of the Niagara River has seen historic battles, sieges, trading and conquest for more than 300 years.
- Genesee Country Village and Museum. New York State's largest living history museum brings the 19th century to life.
- Maid Of The Mist. Visitors to Niagara have taken this one-of-a-kind ride for more than 150 years.

For more information visit www.buffalocvb.org or call 1-800-BUFFALO.

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West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 372-8383

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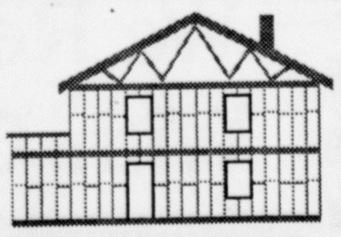

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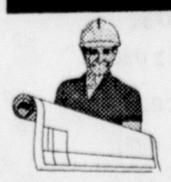

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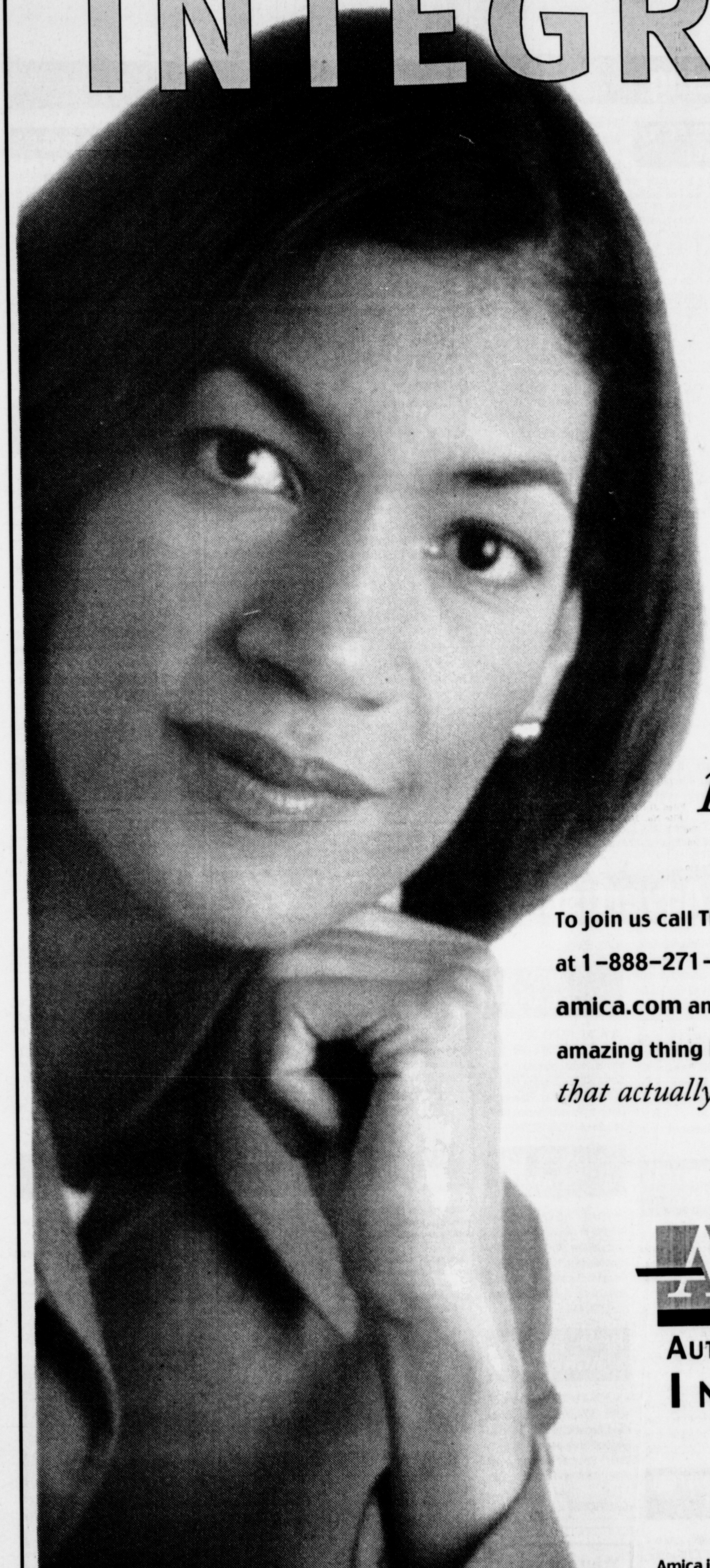
News-Ledger Directory *of* Local Places *of* Worship

Anna Street Baptist Church Rev. Norman Pollitt, 371-6560 1400 Anna St., W. Sac. Sun. 10am Bible Study 11am Worship Service Wed. 7pm Prayer/Bible Study http://www.forministry.com/95605ASBC	**Community Lutheran Church** Rev. Marjorie C. Beach, Pastor 920 Drever St., 371-8804 10am Worship/Sun. School Friendly, family, inclusive language. The 'come as you are' church.	**Seventh Day Adventist Church** H. Eugene Miller, Pastor, 334-9315 2860 Jefferson Blvd., W. Sac. PO Box 447, W. Sac. 95691 Sat. Sabbath School 9:30am Worship 11am 372-6570
First Baptist Church Gary Clements, Pastor Sun. Worship 9:45am Sun. eve. fellowship 6pm Jr/Sr High Youth Mon. 6:30pm Home Bible Studies Tues. 7pm Awana (K-6) Wed. 6:30pm Boy Scouts (11-18) Thurs. 6:30pm Men's Prayer Fllwship Sat. 8am 1511 Delaware Ave. 371-4061	**Trinity Presbyterian Church** Rev. David Huusko, Pastor 1500 Park Blvd., 371-5875 SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 10am Worship Service 11:15am Christian Education Child Care Provided JOIN US! www.2xtreme.net/clmet/trinity.htm	**Holy Cross Catholic Church** 1321 Anna St. near Todhunter 371-1211 Rev. Chad Puthoff, SDS Sat. Vigil 5pm (English) Sun. 9 (English) Noon & 7pm (Spanish) Mon. 8:30am, Tues-Wed 7am, Thurs. 6:45 (Spanish) Fri. 8:30am
First Southern Baptist Church Pastor Michael Root Sun. School 9:30am Sun. Worship 11am, 6:30pm Wed. 6:30pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 2124 Michigan Blvd. 371-2111	**Southport Community Church** James Allerton, Pastor 2568 Industrial Blvd. Elem. School, 10:30am Children's Programs Weekly Small Group Bible Study Great Music www.southportchurch.com 372-7818	Westside Covenant Church 371-3933 Meeting Sunday at 10 a.m. at Westfield Village Elementary School 508 Poplar Ave. West Sacramento
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church 911 Park Blvd., 371-4814 Father James B. Walsh, Pastor Masses: Sat. Vigil 5:30pm Sunday 9 & 10:30am Weekdays 7am No Mass on Thursday	**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints** Bishop Lew Bodkin ■ 2667 Linden Rd 10am Sacrament Meeting 11:20am Sunday School 12:10pm Priesthood/Relief Society PUBLIC WELCOME! 373-1801	**River of Life Community Church** Pastor Dave Losey 3605 Gregory Ave. 10 a.m. Worship Children's Programs Youth 6 p.m. www.intheriver.com 371-6706

INTEGRITY



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PPC-6tfn

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51

CLEANING SERVICES

NITTY GRITTY CLEANING SERVICE: weekly, bi-weekly, monthly & one-time clean-ups. Lic. & bonded. Call Kelly, 371-2061.
35

BARBER

Bill the Barber is still working in the barber shop at 1536 West Capitol Ave. Drop in from 9-3 on Tuesdays & Wednesdays. Or call Bill at 371-2563 or on his cell phone, 916-208-6682. Will take appointments!

GUTTER INSTALLATION

THE GUTTER GUYS: Seamless gutter installation & cleaning. Free written estimate, no obligation! Prevent dry rot, stains, damage to roof & siding. Honest & reliable, with competitive pricing. Lic. #414415B-Hic. Call 372-9410.
24tfn

PLUMBING

Plumbing service & repair. Gary Avila, Town Craft Plumbing, Lic. #804662. West Sacto business. Call (916) 628-1825 or 372-0871.

HOMES FOR RENT

Let us be your source for West Sacramento rentals! S&S Property Management, owner Bill Shower. Call 371-1870 or email rentals or email rentals@ssproperty.com for information on what could be your next home!
37tfn

HOMES FOR SALE

SUMMER HOME: Would you like an in-ground custom swimming pool with cool decking, large wood gazebo, outdoor bar "hut"? Plus a spacious 4 bdrm, 3 full bath home w/large living rm, family rm, kitchen & 2-car garage? This is newer home in Southport. Owner asking $299,900. Call today for apptmt. John Kane, Kane Realty, 916-373-5300.
43tfn

NO MAINTENANCE: Big 3 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath condo at 115 Touchstone is waiting for your personal touch. You can pick the new carpet & lino -- so come by & take a look. Condo has attached 2-car garage, inside laundry area, master bdrm bath. Community has swimming pools, tennis crt, RV/boat storage. All for $154,000. Call John Kane, Kane Realty, 373-5300, for apptmt.
43tfn

3 bedrm, 2 baths + den, on 1/2 acre. Pool, spa, updated kitchen 2/oak cabinets. $350k. Call Janet Friesinger, agent, 916-712-9197.
46

Parkside Property: HERE'S A HOT ONE! 1226 Sullivan Ct. Work will start shortly on this 3 bdrm, 2 bath, cul de sac home, or purchase in its present condition. For more information, contact Jeff Puliz, 373-9600 or visit www.jeffpuliz.com.
38tfn

For a list of homes and land for sale, call John Kane, brk., KANE Realty at 373-5300!
36tfn

COUNTRY ESTATE: Lots of land, a big house, barns & outbuildings! Waiting for you & your horses. This is a 2,500 sq. ft home located on 5 acres in Wilton, w/4 bdrms, 3 full baths, lrg deck, in-ground pool & barns. "Country living" at its best. Get your cowboy boots & come on down! $425,000. Exclusive listing. John Kane, Kane Realty, 373-5300 for appt.
25tfn

NEW LISTING! Touchstone condo, 3 bdrm, 2 1/2 baths, 2-car garage, new carpentry, thermal windows, new heating & air, updated kitchen, park setting, best in town! Kane Realty, call John Kane for appt., 373-5300.
jk36tfn

Southport's Best! Newer, 4 bdrm, 3 full bath, large fmly rm w/frplc, big kitchen tile countertop, stately entry, 2-car garage, 2200 sq ft., no Mello-Roos fees, built-in huge pool w/gazebo. Large master bdrm w/shower & separate tub. Call for appt. to see this lovely home. List price $299,900. Call John Kane, Kane Realty, 373-5300.
42tfn

VALUE WITH ELEGANCE: Much sought-after 4 bdrm, 3 full bath Southport home, Features over 2300 sq ft living space, master bdrm frplc & retreat! See it soon! $274,900. 3070 Nancy Lane. Parkside Property, call Jeff Puliz, agent, 373-5300, or visit www.jeffpuliz.com for more info.
44tfn

2922 Denise Court: by 'Southport Specialist' John Kane. You can't beat this opportunity! Remodeled 1600 sq ft house, 3 bdrms, 2 full baths, large fmly room 2/fireplace, vaulted ceiling. Custom kitchen w/newer cabinets. All this plus swimming, for those hot summer days! $209,800. Seller requests buyer purchase home in present condition. Worth a lot more! Call John Kane, Kane Realty, for appt. at 373-5300.
44tfn

SOUTHPORT BEAUTY: Big 4 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath home on Nichols Ct. in Southport. Only 8 yrs old, no Mello-Roos bonds. 2-car garage, tile roof, big kitchen, family room, and covered patio. All for $258,000. Call John Kane Realty, 373-5300.
40tfn

ARE YOUR RENTAL SLIPS SHOWING? Updated 2 bdrm home in established 'state' streets. $141,500. 1571 Vermont Ave. Call Jeff Puliz, agent, 373-9600 or www.jeffpuliz.com.
40tfn

BEST BUY IN THE AREA: Remodel in progress. This 3 bdrm home will have all new paint, flooring, roof & much more. $129,500. 760 Greenwood Ave. Jeff Puliz, agnt, 373-9600 or www.jeffpuliz.com.
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11tfn

APARTMENTS

Beautiful, secluded apartment community with park-like grounds. Numerous floorplans. Near freeway, next-door to golf course. RiverbendCountry Club Apts., 555 Douglas St., West Sac. 372-2888
46tfn

HELP WANTED

WANTED: Someone to take care of my flowerbeds. Initial cleanup, then maintenance. $8/hour. 371-1971.
45

STORAGE

Robert's Storage Co.: RV, travel trailers, boats, vehicles. 5 foot to 40 foot space, $35/month. 371-2554.
49

CHILD CARE

FREE CHILD CARE REFERRALS: Child Care Services offers free child care referrals to licensed family child care homes and child care centers. For referrals and other information, call (530) 757-5695 or (800) 723-3001.
2003-30

One PT, one FT day care opening in my W. Sacto. home. Ages 4-12. Please call 371-4841.
42-46

GARAGE/YARD SALES

Community Lutheran Church annual flea market & rummage sale: Sat., Aug. 3, from 8am-1 p.m. Call 371-8804 for spaces to rent ($15). 920 Drever St., West Sac.
48

Garage sale Friday & Sat. July 5-6, 11am-6pm. Furniture including sectional queen sofabed/recliner, large corner desk (light oak color), twin day bed (red), old dresser drawers, other misc. items. 709 Inglewood Drive near Cummins in Broderick.
46

MISC. FOR SALE

RCA TV $150; Kenmore dryers $75 & $50; Kenmore refrig. $75; old walnut desk $125; 2 older solid wood dressers $50 per; couch & matching ottoman $100; dining rm table & chairs $75; Lazy Boy chair $40. 916-375-0806 day or eve.
46tfn

Battery backup unit with 4 plugs, 1200 watts. You supply auto-type battery. Tripp-Lite BC-1200 model w/high quality circuitry. $200 or first reasonable offer. Call Steve @ News-Ledger, 371-8030.
49

CARPET SERVICE

Carpet installation, repair & restretch: call Carl, 916-373-3365. Free estimates! 35 years experience. Lic. #6856.
34tfn

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FOR SALE

SUMMER CLEARANCE SALE! Steel Arch Buildings. Save thousands on select models: 25X50, 35X38, 52X64. Great workshops/garages. Call 1-800-341-7007. www.steelmasterusa.com (CAL*SCAN)

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JOIN OUR TEAM and make a difference. In the California Army National Guard you can get money for college and career training. Call 1-800-GO-GUARD. (CAL*SCAN)

REPORTER- Award winning newspaper. Journalism degree preferred. Clips, resume to: Editor, Paradise Post, P.O. Drawer 70, Paradise, CA 95967. Fax 530-877-5679. jobs@paradisepost.com (CAL*SCAN)

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DRIVERS, O/O's. Run with a company with options. 53ft. vans, flatbeds, heavy haul. Benefits, outstanding pay. 3yrs CDL/OTR experience. Flatbed/HH, 1-800-835-9471. Vans, 1-866-313-0478. (CAL*SCAN)

DRIVERS - OWNER OPERATORS. When the times get tough...the tough get going to Landstar. Call the company you know will be here tomorrow! LANDSTAR 1-888-589-8998 or 1-800-435-4010. (CAL*SCAN)

HELP WANTED/ SALES

SALES $5,500 weekly goal potential. If someone did it, so can you! 2-3 confirmed appointments daily! Benefits available... Call Erick Allen 888-543-1788. (CAL*SCAN)

HOMES FOR SALE

BUY WHOLESALE DIRECT - Wholesale brokers of Quality Manufactured Homes. Save up to $40,000 guaranteed. Learn the secrets dealers don't want you to know. 1-800-242-0060. (CAL*SCAN)

LAND/ ACREAGE

20 ACRE REPOSSESSIONS! Final Offer!! Take over payments. Near booming El Paso, Texas. $89.82/monthly ($8,980/10%/216 months). Free maps/pictures. Sunset Ranches 1-800-343-9444. (CAL*SCAN)

MONEY TO LOAN

PAYDAY ADVANCES BY PHONE in seconds. Repay your next payday. Convenient - Fast -Confidential. No credit check. Advance SmartCard - Anytime, Anywhere. 1-800-480-9166. (CAL*SCAN)

REAL ESTATE/ ACREAGE

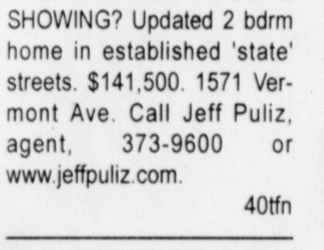
ARIZONA BEST BARGAIN, 36 acres - $24,900. Borders State Land. Beautiful ranch in Williams/Flagstaff area, perfect 6,100' climate. Spectacular mountain views. Affordable financing. Call AZLR 1-877-282-5263. (CAL*SCAN)

Your ad here will reach millions statewide -- OR advertise in our local section for only $3.50 for 25 words! Call 371-8030!

Career Opportunities

Searching For Student Journalists

(NAPS)—Here's breaking news that may be of interest to aspiring African-American student journalists. A search is now underway for African-American student journalists to serve as on-air reporters for the upcoming *Billboard* R&B Hip Hop Conference and Awards in Miami.



READ ALL ABOUT IT—You can be an on-air reporter. Details at www.nabj.org.

Entrants selected for the program, sponsored by the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) and Heineken USA, will travel to Miami in August to report on the event.

From Miami, students selected to participate in the program will file news reports for radio stations in their local markets and receive special instruction from news professionals from the NABJ.

How To Apply

To apply for Heineken: On Assignment, applicants must be 21 years of age or older by August 5, 2002, submit a 10 minute or shorter demo cassette tape of their best work in radio (can be news, features, interviews of documentaries), along with a cover letter describing their interest in pursuing a career in journalism. A brief description of the tape's content is also recommended. Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited college, university or technical trade school and be available for travel to Miami August 5 - 10.

More information is available at www.nabj.org.

***

Words are a powerful drug, and many men are destroyed from their much use.
—R.E. Phillips
***

HELP WANTED

Manager - For senior lunch program in West Sac., M-F 9:30am-1:30pm, $8.21-$8.46/hr., depending on exp. Call (530) 662-7035 for application. EOE.
ENPYC-44tfn

Make a Difference in Your Community! Join AmeriCorps! 20 Positions Available throughout Yolo County with various non-profit agencies. Pick up application at 327 College, Suite 100, Woodland 95695 or call (530) 669-3285 for more information.
47

LOST & FOUND

FOUND: Set of keys, Park Blvd. area, about June 24. Identify & claim: call News-Ledger at 371-8030.
49

Decorating Your Home

Using Decorative Wall Panels

(NAPS)—If you want to change the look of your home affordably, consider decorative wall coverings. New types of decorative wall paneling can completely change the look and feel of a room, without sending decorating costs through the roof.

Some creative applications of paneling now include decorative touches like wainscoting, three-quarter appliqué with molding accents, and flat or vaulted ceiling treatments.

"Paneling is no longer a product that is used only in the basement," says Susan Orley, an interior designer. "Designers are seeing paneling used in all rooms of a home. The look of real wood is really back in vogue—my customers are looking at hardwood floors and paneling combinations for great rooms, bathrooms, children's rooms, potting rooms, kitchens, offices and dining rooms."

Homeowners can find a wide variety of panels that can fit into virtually any decorating scheme. For example, the company Georgia-Pacific carries over 100 types of finished and unfinished panels in an array of styles, textures and colors—including panels made from real wood. The variety gives homeowners the opportunity to express their own creative style.

Decorative wall panels are a creative and inexpensive way to change the look of a room.

Georgia-Pacific works to be a good environmental steward by manufacturing many of its paneling products with recycled content.

Do-it-yourselfers who want to install wood paneling can go to the company's Web site (www.gp.com) for step-by-step instructions and decorating tips. Or for more information, call 1-800-BUILD GP.

OPINION

Letters to the Editor

GSMS promotion should be earned

Golden State Middle School held its annual Eighth Grade Promotion Ceremony on June 21, 2002. In order to be eligible to participate in the ceremony students are expected to meet specific requirements set forth by the school district. Golden State is proud to say that out of approximately 430 eighth grade students we had about 370 students earn the right to participate in the ceremony.

This year one student participated in the promotion ceremony even though this student failed to complete the specific requirements set forth by the school district. This was a result of the superintendent of Washington Unified School District making a decision solely as a result of demands made by the parent.

Why didn't the superintendent grant the other 60 students who did not meet the requirements to participate in the promotion ceremony the same option? Is this fair treatment? Is it appropriate for a superintendent to make an arbitrary decision when the district has a specific appeals process in place?

If our goal as educators is to teach children; and they learn by example, what did the superintendent teach this child, this child's parents, and others?

We encourage the community and the district level administrators to review this situation in depth. We encourage them to follow the requirements they set forth in a manner that is fair and equitable to all students.

Promotion is and should be a celebration of what a student has accomplished and earned!

ROSALIND BADGER, LINDA GUADAGNO, SYLVIA VASQUEZ, GLENDA BOSSERMAN, CAROL STOREY, CAROLYN BUTLER, D.J. FIELDS, NAGIBA GREGORY, LORNA COX, KARIN HUNT, KATHY HIRAMOTO, JOHN HARRIS, ELIZABETH DARE, DONALD BROWN, CARENCITA TACHERA, JUDY RODRIGUEZ, & MARY ANN BRINKHIUS.
(GSMS staff members)

Correction

First, let me take this opportunity to thank you for the excellent coverage you give to River City High School. Please accept our appreciation for the wonderful job you do recognizing our outstanding students, staff, and programs.

Secondly, many thanks for publishing our school newspaper, "The River City Review". It has come to my attention that a recent headline regarding the RCHS softball team in that publication was inaccurate. The article stated something to the effect that the 2002 season was our "first trip to the playoffs." And as a matter of fact, our varsity softball team did indeed go to the playoffs two years in a row, the 1995 and 1996 seasons. Coaches at that time were Tim Hanagan and Dave Wernsman.

Thanks again for the great coverage of our local high school activities and for the aforementioned correction. It's great to know that so many people read our local newspaper!

City should keep its commitments

Well, the City of West Sacramento has failed to keep its commitment again!

The ditch they own on Jefferson Boulevard has acquired an accumulation of junk, weeds, dry grass, and rotting trees. This portion of Jefferson Boulevard has a high pedestrian traffic, many of whom smoke. On the other side of "the ditch" is a senior mobile home park with at least ten mobile homes backing up to the ditch. Any of these homes are the sum and total asset of the seniors who live there.

Starting in November of 2001 I contacted the West Sacramento Fire Department to report a serious fire hazard. They said they would come and look at it. They never came. Instead, they sent Officer Cathy Hill from the code enforcement division on November 17th. Upon observing the ditch, she indeed agreed it was an immediate fire hazard. She also informed me that it would be taken care of in two or three weeks. Three weeks later a man from the public works department came out to inspect the ditch and informed me it would take three or four months to coordinate the clean up as they had to get permission to use prisoners to do the job.

In June 2002 the fire hazard had escalated to "red light status", so I went to the West Sacramento police station to file a formal complaint against the City of West Sacramento and the code enforcement, public works, and fire prevention departments. Rather ironically the police department's personal vehicles would be in jeopardy of burning up if the ditch went up in flames.

I stated the reason I was there to the officer behind the glass and I was made to wait 25 minutes before a younger officer came out to ask if he could help me. I told him I wanted to file a formal complaint against the city and he appeared more than a little flustered. He told me he would send someone out to help me. Another 20 minutes passed before another man came out and asked the same questions. When I informed him what I wanted he tried to placate me like I was some ignorant old lady. (In my youth I worked for the Fire Prevention Bureau of the New York Fire Department and I can assure you I know a fire hazard when I see one.)

There were some people in the waiting room so he invited me into his private office to discuss the matter. He informed me he was only temporarily assigned to code enforcement and that the officer who normally was in charge was away. I demanded to know when the clean up was scheduled to begin. He didn't know but said he would find out. He once again stressed the fact that they had to get some prisoners together to do the work. I gave him my phone number and he called later in the day to tell me the clean up would take place June 29, 2002.

It is now July and they have not come to take down the dead trees, remove debris, or use a controlled burn on the dry grass and weeds. My neighbor told me this is "par for the course" with the city. She has lived here for 20 years and there has been many a year when they never clean it out, so residents of the mobile park try to do what they can, but this is one of the worse years and worse conditions ever. Their pleas to the city to clean up their mess have fallen on deaf ears. I wonder if these officials have parents or were they just hatched? I have been working and paying taxes since I was 16 years of age, over 58 years, and this is the way the city treats its elders.

Maybe it's time to change the government of West Sacramento so every district gets representation, not just those who yell the loudest. I hearby serve the City of West Sacramento formal notice that if my home is damaged in any way due to their negligence in this situation I will definitely sue in a court of law, holding them personally liable.

THEODORA BOYLAN
West Sacramento

Judges out of step

Osama bin Laden and the Taliban must be rolling in the dirt with laughter over the antics of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Don't these guys have anything better to do than stir the pot by splitting hairs? I thought the courts were swamped with a backlog of cases.

In the army we had a remedy for mischief. A couple of hours of intense close order drill. It usually gets the culprit back in step.

SAVINO SANCHEZ

Child care questions

Last week, I was able to attend the Mom's Group that has formed in our neighborhood. It had been several months since I had attended, but the same topic that has come up over and over again throughout the past year was presented again. The hot topic of the day was: child care and pre-school in West Sacramento, or the lack thereof. There were over a dozen moms in attendance, with a half dozen that had recently joined the group. As always, after talking to the moms and hearing about their child care/pre-school dilemmas, I felt better knowing that I wasn't the only one that has faced these issues. Unfortunately, we were unable to come up with any viable solution(s) to our problem.

It wasn't until I had left the Mom's Group that I realized I had access to one of the best-kept (public meeting) secrets in West Sacramento. I say it's a secret because I have been one of the only community members in attendance over the last several months. On the first Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. two members of the governing board of the Washington Unified School District and district administrator(s) meet with two city council members and City of West Sacramento personnel to discuss city/school business. At the very beginning of each meeting there is a public forum session for citizens of the community to discuss items relating to the school district and city that
are not on the agenda. During this meeting, parents and guardians of the children in West Sacramento have access to one of the best resources out there -- key leaders in our city who ultimately make decisions that have a direct impact on our children. The "2 X 2" meeting is held the first Monday of the month at 5:50 p.m. in the WUSD board room at 90 Westacres Road.

As a side note, during the City of West Sacramento sponsored neighborhood meeting last Thursday, there was a questionnaire passed out relating to Catalina Park/Child Care at Bridgeway Island. What was the purpose of this questionnaire? Was this questionnaire developed for residents to choose between a park or child care facility or was it trying to get a feel for the community interest as it relates to the park and child care in the neighborhood? Will the attenders of last week's neighborhood meeting be the only ones that had an opportunity to provide input? When will the other residents that did not attend the meeting have an opportunity to provide their input?

HEIDI RAMIREZ
West Sacramento

Some interesting possibilities

A most interesting article was written by Dan

Please see LETTERS, page 11

ORDINANCE SUMMARIES

At their regular meeting on July 10, 2002, the West Sacramento City Council is scheduled to adopt the following ordinances:

Ordinance 02-2 which rezones 9.4 acres of property at the corner of Sacramento Avenue and Douglas Street from Community Commercial to Multifamily Residential Planned Development.

Ordinance 02-7 amending the West Sacramento Zoning Map for Bridgeway Lakes to reconfigure land uses in the southwest Village to accommodate a lake for recreation and storm water detention.

Ordinance 02-8 amending the West Sacramento Zoning Map in the northeast Village of Southport to rezone 21 acres from 10 acres PQP (Public Quasi Public) and 11 acres RP (Recreation and Parks) to 21 acres R1-B (Residential One-Family).

Ordinance 02-9 authorizing a special tax within Community Facilities District No. 15 (Pheasant Hollow).

Ordinance 02-10 amending Section 17.69 of the West Sacramento Zoning Ordinance creating a Design Review Process.

Ordinance 02-11 authorizing an amendment to the contract between the City Council of the city of West Sacramento and the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees Retirement System.

July 3

Notice of Election

Notice is hereby given that a general municipal election will be held in the city of West Sacramento on Tuesday, the 5th day of November, 2002, for the following offices: 2 city council seats currently held by Christopher Cabaldon and Jim Cahill.

Qualified candidates must be at least 18 years of age and registered voters in West Sacramento and the time nomination papers are filed. Nomination papers will be available from July 15 through August 9, 2002 in the office of the City Clerk, 1350 Halyard Drive, West Sacramento between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The polls will be open on election day between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

July 3

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The West Sacramento City Council will conduct a public hearing on July 17, 2002 at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter as possible on the following. The hearing will be held at city hall, 1350 Halyard Drive, West Sacramento. Interested persons are invited to attend. In compliance with the ADA, if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, you should contact the City Clerk at 373-5800. Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to this meeting. City hall is handicapped accessible.

1. Resolution 01-76 certifying the list of weed abatement charges and assessing affected parcels for the cost of abatement and requesting inclusion of the charges on the secured tax roll in the same manner as general taxes.

2. Resolution 02-59 authorizing collection and requesting inclusion of delinquent charges and penalties for water, sewer and refuse services on the secured tax roll in the same manner as the general taxes.

3. Resolution 02-61 amending the Book of City Imposts to create a Design Review Fee.

July 3

NOTICE OF HEARING
JULY 18, 2002

The West Sacramento Planning Commission will consider the following matters on Thursday, July 18, 2002, at West Sacramento City Hall, 1350 Halyard Drive, West Sacramento, California, at the times as specified or as soon thereafter as the matters may be heard:

6:00 p.m.
Zoning Administrator (ZA) Actions
Item #1
None
Regular Agenda
Item #2
Starbuck's Conditional Use Permit (CUP 02-06)

The applicant is requesting approval of a Conditional Use Permit to allow two drive-through lanes for a new Starbuck's and a restaurant. The property is located at 715/735 Harbor Pointe Place (APN 14-640-88 & 89) and is zoned CH PD36 (Commercial Highway). A Negative Declaration has been filed on the project. OWNER: United Growth, LLC, 1250 Bayhill Drive #201, San Bruno, CA 94066. APPLICANT: Reed Avenue, LLC, 1981 North Broadway #415, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. (TH)

Item #3
Pigman Companies General Plan Amendment, Rezone, and Development Agreement Amendment (GPA 01-05)

This item is a request to amend the General Plan Land Use Diagram from Community Commercial to Office and the zoning map from Community Commercial to Professional Office on +/- 11 acres in Riverside Centre. The property is located on lots 1 and 2 of Riverside Centre, 3425 Reed Avenue and 700 Stillwater Road (APN 14-680-03 & 04). A Negative Declaration has been filed on the project. OWNER: Ford Motor Land Corporation, 1900 McCarthy Boulevard #415, Milpitas, CA 95035. APPLICANT: Pigman Companies LLC, 2481 Sunrise Boulevard Suite 200, Gold River, CA 95670. (DT)

Item #4
Review of and Proposed Revisions to the Noise Monitoring Program for Raley Field

A discussion of possible changes to the noise monitoring and enforcement program for and in the vicinity of Raley Field. (SR)

Stephen M. Patek, Director
Community Development Department

If you challenge any of the above items in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of West Sacramento at, or prior to, the public hearing.

July 3

Fictitious Business Name Statement
Filed JUNE 12, 2002
File No. 2002-534

The following person is doing business as Fleet Boss Global Positioning Solutions, 1741 Monument Drive, Lincoln, CA 95648:

Mobile Asset Management, Inc., incorp. in CA, 1741 Monument Drive, Lincoln, CA 95648.

This business is conducted by a Corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on June 2002.

/s/Stephen Weiss

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the original document on file in this office. This certification is true as long as there are no alterations to the document, AND as long as the document is sealed with a red seal.

State of California
County of Yolo
Tony Bernhard, County Clerk
Date: June 12, 2002
by: /s/Ava Woodard, Deputy Clerk

June 26 July 3 10 17
Cns405658

Fictitious Business Name Statement
Filed May 29, 2002
File No. 2002-483

The following person is doing business as Best Western Country and Best Value Inn, 3930 County Rd. 89, Dunnigan, CA 95937:

Ankoor Financial, LLC (California), PO Box 20836, San Jose, CA 95760; same address as above.

This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on May 28, 2002.

/s/Rajiv Patel, Member
Ankoor Financial, LLC

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the original document on file in this office. This certification is true as long as there are no alterations to the document, AND as long as the document is sealed with a red seal.

State of California
County of Yolo
Tony Bernhard, County Clerk
Date: May 29, 2002
by: /s/Kim Weisenberg, Deputy Clerk

June 26 July 3 10 17

Fictitious Business Name Statement
Filed May 23, 2002
File No. 2002-473

The following person is doing business as Select Personnel Services; Select Temporary Services; Select Staffing Services; Select Technical Services, 1528 Chapala St., Santa Barbara CA 93101:

Real Time Staffing Services; Inc., same address as above.

This business is conducted by a Corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on January 2002.

/s/James R. Sorenson

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the original document on file in this office. This certification is true as long as there are no alterations to the document, AND as long as the document is sealed with a red seal.

State of California
County of Yolo
Tony Bernhard, County Clerk
Date: May 23, 2002
by: /s/Ava Woodard, Deputy Clerk

June 12 19 26 July 3
Cns398041

Fictitious Business Name Statement
Filed May 30, 2002
File No. 2002-487

The following person is doing business as ChevronTexaco Exploration & Production Company, 575 Market Street, San Francisco CA 94105:

Chevron U.S.A., Inc., incorp. in Pennsylvania, 575 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94105.

This business is conducted by a Corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on May 1, 2002.

/s/F.G. Soler
Asst. Secty.
Chevron U.S.A.

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the original document on file in this office. This certification is true as long as there are no alterations to the document, AND as long as the document is sealed with a red seal.

State of California
County of Yolo
Tony Bernhard, County Clerk
Date: May 30, 2002
by: /s/Ava Woodard, Deputy Clerk

June 12 19 26 July 3

Fictitious Business Name Statement
Filed May 29, 2002
File No. 2002-488

The following person is doing business as Prudential Relocation, 105 Decker Drive, Irving, Texas 75062:

Prudential Relocation Inc., incorp. in Colorado, 105 Decker Drive, Irving, TX 75062.

This business is conducted by a Corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 2/27/02.

/s/Susanne E. Schaller, Asst. Secretary
Prudential Relocation, Inc.

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the original document on file in this office. This certification is true as long as there are no alterations to the document, AND as long as the document is sealed with a red seal.

State of California
County of Yolo
Tony Bernhard, County Clerk
Date: May 29, 2002
by: /s/Ava Woodard, Deputy Clerk

June 19 26 July 3 10
Cns406149

***

I always pass on good advice. It is the only thing to do with it. It is never any use to oneself.
—Oscar Wilde

***

Fictitious Business Name Statement
Filed May 16, 2002
File No. 2002-433

The following person is doing business as Go Color Separations, 2947 Redwood Ave. West Sacramento, CA 95691:

Patti J. Gladney, same address.

This business is conducted by an Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on May 7, 2002.

/s/Patti J. Gladney

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the original document on file in this office. This certification is true as long as there are no alterations to the document, AND as long as the document is sealed with a red seal.

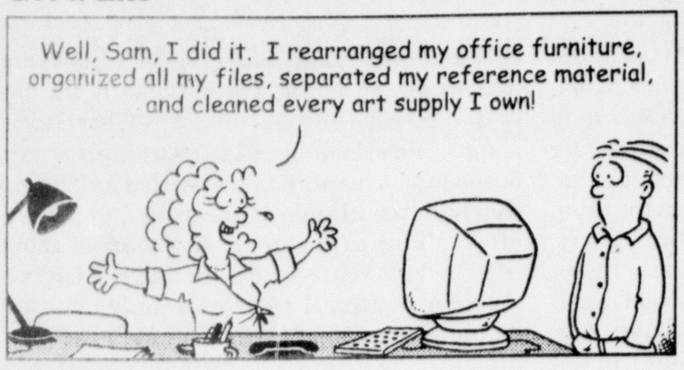
State of California
County of Yolo
Tony Bernhard, County Clerk
Date: May 16, 2002
by: /s/Ava Woodard, Deputy Clerk

June 19 26 July 3 10

PUZZLES & COMICS

Got a Life

by Terri Davis



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

R.F.D.

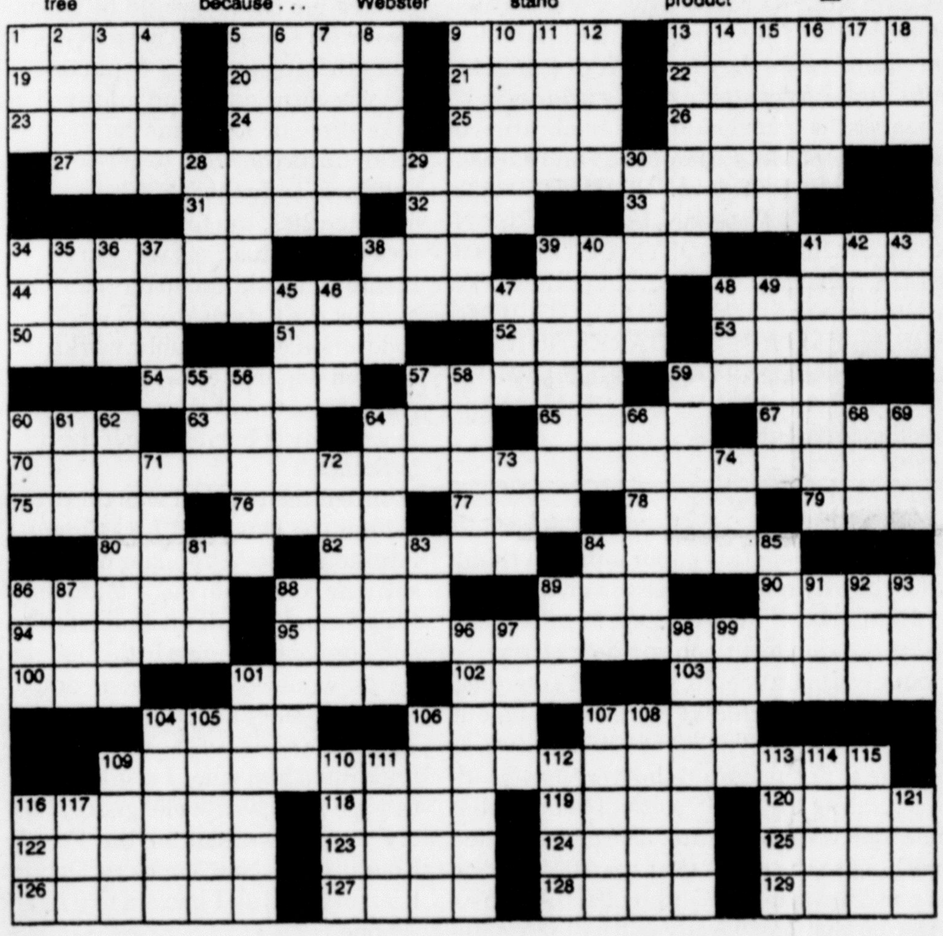
by Mike Marland

Super Crossword

CAREER CHOICES

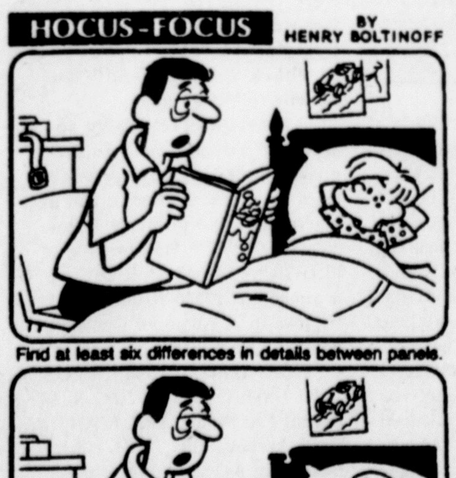
ACROSS
1 From the top
5 Pride of the pumped-up
9 St. Louis team
13 Dirty
19 118 Across' mistress
20 Way off base?
21 Director Kazan
22 Agenda item
23 Emcee's site
24 Melodious McEntire
25 Monastery dweller
26 Kindle
27 He became a Realtor because . . .
31 Form a cylinder
32 Broad st.
33 Savage sorts
34 Alarm
38 It may be strapless
39 Emulates Simon
41 Hibiscus garland
44 She became a pharmacist because . . .
48 — squash
50 Tropical tree
51 Wrinkly dog
52 Diva Destinn
53 Halloween happening
54 Raptor feature
57 Texas landmark
59 Out of gas
60 — Na Na
63 Scold and scold
64 Bolted the beans
65 Formerly
67 Dispel
70 He became an explorer because . . .
75 Get wind of
76 Cad
77 Watching machines?
78 Season firewood
79 Rock's — Leppard
80 Formal ceremony
82 Backslide
84 Exhausted
86 Euripidean tragedy
88 Lhasa —
89 Clarke or West
90 Model Carre
94 Simpson of fashion
95 She became a baker because . . .
100 Horde of humpbacks
101 Not that
102 Oil apparatus
103 Least light-hearted
104 Wet blanket
106 Address abbr.
107 — vu
109 He became an electrician because . . .
116 — out (aided)
118 Hammett hound
119 Small businessman?
120 Vociferate
122 Elevated
123 Author Uris
124 "— She Sweet" ('27 song)
125 Cooper's tool
126 Size up
127 Drops the ball
128 Family members, to many
129 Part of Q.E.D.

DOWN
1 Clause connector
2 Wordy Webster
3 Part of HOMES
4 Cleanse
5 Excuses
6 Tom of "Baretta"
7 Computer language
8 Thin strip
9 Dislodgment
10 Isolated
11 Ho Chi —
12 Literary pen name
13 Poet Heaney
14 Senator Hatch
15 Jeremy of "Waterland"
16 Praise
17 USNA grad
18 HST's successor
28 Schipa solo
29 Writer Paretsky
30 With diffidence
34 "For shame!"
35 Palindromic cry
36 "Fantasia" frame
37 Nab a gnat
38 Plead
39 Exercise expert Richard
40 Cashew kin
41 Couldn't stand
42 Directional suffix
43 Calligraphy supply
45 Highest point
46 Pantyhose problem
47 Soup veggie
48 Gibbon or gorilla
49 Vulgar
55 Comic Sothern
56 Woodworking tool
57 From — Z
58 Boxing blows
59 Neutral tone
60 "Quiet!"
61 TV's "— Haw"
62 Bestowed
64 Reference volumes
66 "— of Love" ('64 smash)
68 Grand — Opry
69 Mistaken
71 Historian Durant
72 Oracle site
73 "— had it!"
74 Rock's — at Work
81 — kwon do
83 Neighbor of Ger.
84 Dejected
85 Soybean product
86 Traveler's aid
87 Maestro de Waart
88 Grate stuff
89 Ryan or Foster
91 Knot it!
92 — and outs
93 NCO
96 Dondi and Annie
97 "Ars longa, — brevis"
98 Protests
99 "There oughta be —!"
101 Exchanges
104 Contradict
105 61 Down host
106 Play boy?
107 D.D. Emmett tune
108 Happening
109 They're sometimes hugged?
110 Auction
111 — -friendly
112 Act like an antelope
113 Basra's locale
114 Pianist Lupu
115 Signor Ferrari
116 Herd word
117 Oerter and Unser
121 TV's "Father —"



Please see answers on back page

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Wishing Well®

4	7	3	6	2	4	3	8	5	4	3	6	4
K	Y	W	E	L	E	I	L	L	E	S	X	P
7	6	8	4	6	4	6	8	7	5	6	2	8
O	P	E	P	R	R	E	A	U	I	S	O	D
7	8	5	3	4	2	4	2	4	2	3	5	2
C	O	F	D	O	O	M	K	I	F	O	E	O
8	2	3	5	6	3	2	6	5	4	3	4	6
T	R	M	I	S	I	A	F	M	S	S	E	E
3	6	3	8	2	3	2	6	4	6	8	2	7
G	E	A	H	L	I	T	L	S	I	E	E	A
2	3	6	5	6	8	6	8	5	2	3	2	3
R	N	N	P	G	R	S	S	R	N	E	A	D
7	2	7	5	2	5	2	5	2	5	2	7	7
N	T	W	O	I	V	V	E	E	S	S	I	N

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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MAGIC MAZE ● FEDERAL —

V	S	Q	N	K	E	H	E	B	Y	R	W	T	R	O
L	J	G	E	P	B	D	Y	T	E	E	W	U	R	P
W	S	N	K	I	R	G	O	T	I	G	D	B	Z	X
V	O	P	S	Q	O	I	S	C	M	U	K	I	G	E
C	A	R	O	Y	W	I	S	U	X	L	C	S	Q	P
N	L	J	K	O	G	T	H	O	F	A	E	R	C	A
Y	G	O	V	E	R	N	M	E	N	T	T	X	I	V
U	S	J	R	U	R	T	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	C
Q	P	N	O	I	S	S	I	M	M	O	C	W	N	M
K	J	C	H	B	F	E	C	Y	C	N	E	G	A	B
Z	E	V	R	E	S	E	R	Y	E	S	A	C	X	L

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Agency	Courts	Law	Tax code
Case	Government	Prison	Troops
Circuit	Holiday	Register	Workers
Commission	Jobs	Regulations	

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challenger® THE INTERNATIONAL CROSSNUMBER GAME

By L. Conry Hamlet

DIRECTIONS
Fill each square with a number, one throughnine
- Horizontal squares should add to totals onright
- Vertical squares should add to totals on bottom
- Diagonal squares through center should add to total in upper and lower right

THERE MAY BE MORE THAN ONE SOLUTION

Today's Challenge
Time 7 2 Minutes Seconds
Your Working
Time Minutes Seconds

					12
		3			12
1					10
	1				15
				2	16
14	9	18	12	13	

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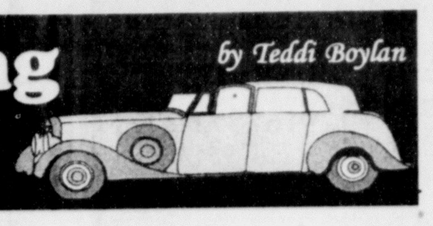
DINING, TRAVEL & ENTERTAINMENT

Touring with Teddi

by Teddi Boylan



Columnist Teddi Boylan brings you her recommendations of places to dine and places to visit in the greater West Sacramento area. Her travels include both stops at our advertisers' establishments and other institutions. Enjoy!

From Woodland to Old Town to West Sacramento in the heat of the day. Whew!

My friend Linda called me and insisted I come over to Morrisons Upstairs/Downstairs for lunch. She said the magic words, "they're serving 'scalloni.' " For those of us who have never experienced this gourmet treat, it's scallops and abalone into a steak. Because of the scarcity of abalone, it is a difficult dish to find.

Even Morrisons serves it only rarely, and Morrisons is definitely one of the finest restaurants in the area. As I have said before, their calamari is to die for. If you don't like to take the freeway to Woodland (15 minutes max), you can enjoy the ride along the river road that follows the waterway.

I haven't heard yet, but I'm sure Woodland's Victorian Homes tour is coming up soon. If you happen to know details, call me at 372-5110.

What are you doing tomorrow? Old Town has festivities all day long, and a parade at 6 p.m. Sponsored by KCRA and the Convention Bureau and culminating with fireworks from Raley Field. While in Old Town, I suggest you drop into three great shops on J Street, where Elegant Illusions is located.

The first shop is called "Discover California." The name is slightly misleading – it makes you think of coffee mugs and T-shirts with a California motif. They do have these, but a whole lot more. The shop is quite large and has everything from candy to a wine bar. I saw some American Indian statues and related items that were truly beautiful, and reasonably priced. It is well worth the trip. Tell Vickie Van Trichts, the owner, that the News-Ledger sent you.

DISCOVER CALIFORNIA: 114 J St., Old Sacramento.

The second shop is also absolutely charming.

The minute you walk in the door, your senses are assailed with a most pleasant aroma. There's many a candy and cosmetic product, as well as a host of other items to appeal to the eye. A great place to buy that "hard to buy for" person an unusual gift. Say hello to Jennifer Conry while you're there.

VISIONS OF EDEN: 120 J St., Old Sacramento.

The third shop, overseen by Marleen Hoffman, has a true-to-the-merchandise name, but that name fails to incite the little girl in you until you enter. "The Elder Craftsman" carries all kinds of hand-made goods made by seniors – some of which patronize the Hart Center on J Street. Such diversification: from baby clothes and blankets to dolls and jewelry, from handmade garden critters to intriguing woodworked items. I felt like I stepped into Rapunzel's lair. So many beautiful, one-of-a-kind items to become a special gift.

THE ELDER CRAFTSMAN: 130 J Street, Old Sacramento.

A mention of the Elder Craftsman would not be complete without mentioning that the aforesaid Marlene Hoffman, a West Sacramento resident, is an accomplished artist, wither her own business "The Duck's Nest." Be sure to drop into this enchanting little shop and talk to Marleen.

Time for a bite to eat again, so I'm off to O'Malley's Pub and Grill on Second Street, just down the block from the California Military Museum and the Old Sacramento Visitors Center. O'Malley's Pub is a true pub that serves fish and chips, bangers and more. It has 13 beers on tap. They feature karaoke on Thursday nights at 9 p.m. and live bands on Friday and Saturday nights.

Happy hour is 4-7 p.m., and features pitchers of beer for just $5.

Tom, the engaging bartender, drew my attention to the fact that they have a pool table and occasional tournaments. Stop in and – if you're brave enough – try a "purple hooter" or a kamikaze.

O'MALLEY'S PUB & GRILL: Second Street, Old Town.

Warning!

Before you put your money into a parking meter in Old Town, check to see if it's working properly. A great many of them are broken, and won't register the proper time paid for.

Did you know?

The Southport Church's worship team enjoys a Sunday breakfast hour from 9:30 a.m. at Nick's Diner. Could that be an added blessing for Nick's success – along with reasonably priced food, of course?

OLD TOWN

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FIRE SCIENCE ACADEMY ORIENTATION ANNOUNCED
Saturday, July 13, 2002
10:00 a.m.

Fire Station, # 1
1556 Spring Lake Court
Woodland, CA

The Fire Science Academy is a 220-hour program that highlights basic fire fighting skills, use of equipment and emergency response elements. Successful completers are qualified for certification as a Volunteer Firefighter 1.

The Fire Science Academy is conducted through the City of Woodland Fire Department and the Yolo Regional Occupational Program and is held at the Spring Lake Court Fire Station.

You must be at least 16 years or older to participate.

Come to the brief orientation on the academy expectations, dates, and times.

QUESTIONS? Contact Nell at (530) 661-5860

Police log

June 23, 2:19 a.m.

An officer saw a 25-year old Sacramento man driving near Jefferson Blvd. and Highway 275 (the Tower Bridge approach). The driver was swerving and "unable to stay in one lane." The officer pulled the driver over. The suspect admitted having had about five or six beers, and blew a reading of 0.139 percent blood alcohol on a breath test. The legal limit for presumed intoxication is 0.08 percent. The driver was booked.

June 27, 8:50 a.m.

An officer contacted a 20-year old man regarding a fight with another person. The 20-year old man appeared intoxicated, and the officer conducted a "pat search" after the man admitted he had a knife. The officer found a yellow "kubaton" weapon which, after inspection, proved to have a concealed blade in the handle. The man, who was on probation in Sacramento County, was arrested.

June 28, 4:33 a.m.

A Williams St. man reported that a vehicle burglary just occurred. He said he saw three suspects crouched at the rear of his car. A responding officer saw one suspect fleeing through a nearby yard. At least one suspect was arrested.

June 28, 5:22 p.m.

A 35-year old West Sacramento woman was arrested for stabbing her husband with a knife. The man was treated at UCD Medical Center.

June 28, 6:23 p.m.

A mother of a 39-year old man told police that the man was in front of her location. The suspect was arrested on outstanding warrants, and searched and found to have two syringes in his pocket. He was an admitted heroin user who did not have a medical explanation for the syringes.

June 29, 4:23 a.m.

A West Sacramento woman reported that her 32-year old ex-boyfriend had broken into her house, taken her car keys, and was trying to steal her car. Police found the man inside the car and arrested him.

June 30, 9:30 a.m.

A 45-year old West Sacramento man was arrested at his West Sacramento residence. An officer at a state park campground on the coast had reported that the suspect had physically assaulted his own grandson at the campground, injuring the boy.

July 1, 12:57 a.m.

A 47-year old West Sacramento man was arrested for striking his wife and choking her in front of their six-year old daughter. The woman said he also assaulted her two days earlier.

'Dark' schedule for local government this holiday

A meeting of the West Sacramento Economic Development Advisory Commission will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9 at city hall, 1350 Halyard Drive.

Agenda items for the meeting were not released at press time.

Most local government meetings this week were canceled due to the Independence Day holiday.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee's Sale No. 05-TI-28199 "TI2819901900000000" YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 9/2/1994. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On July 17, 2002, at 12:00 PM, AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE CITY HALL, 1350 HALYARD DRIVE, in the City of WEST SACRAMENTO, County of YOLO, State of CALIFORNIA, REGIONAL SERVICE CORPORATION, a California corporation, as duly appointed Trustee under that certain Deed of Trust executed by MICHAEL W. PRUITT AND LESLIE V. PRUITT, HUSBAND AND WIFE, as Trustors, recorded on 9/9/1994, as Instrument No. 028379, of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of YOLO County, State of CALIFORNIA, under the power of sale therein contained, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, for cash, or cashier's check (payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States) without warranty express or implied as to title, use, possession or encumbrances, all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it as such Trustee, in and to the following described property situated in the aforesaid County and State, to-wit: TAX PARCEL NO. 45-381-21-1 From information which the Trustee deems reliable, but for which Trustee makes no representation or warranty, the street address or other common designation of the above described property is purported to be 2833 HIGGINS ROAD , WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95691. Said property is being sold for the purpose of paying the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust, including fees and expenses of sale. The total amount of the unpaid principal balance, interest thereon, together with reasonably estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Trustee's Sale is $130,968.01. Dated: 6/20/2002 REGIONAL SERVICE CORPORATION, Trustee By CHRIS REBHUHN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Agent for Trustee: AGENCY SALES AND POSTING 8801 Folsom Blvd., #230 Sacramento, CA 95826 Telephone Number: (800) 542-2550 Sale Information: (916) 387-7728 or http://www.rtrustee.com ASAP484897 06/26, 07/03, 07/10

Fictitious Business Name Statement
Filed May 21, 2002
File No. 2002-460

The following person is doing business as Davis Kids Klub, 5244 Cowell Blvd., Davis CA 95616:

Lynda Yancher, same address.

This business is conducted by a Corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on May 21, 2002.

/s/Lynda C. Yancher, President
Davis Kids Klub

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the original document on file in this office. This certification is true as long as there are no alterations to the document, AND as long as the document is sealed with a red seal.

State of California
County of Yolo
Tony Bernhard, County Clerk
Date: May 21, 2002
by: /s/Lupe Ramirez, Deputy Clerk

June 12 19 26 July 3

Fictitious Business Name Statement
Filed June 6, 2002
File No. 2002-525

The following person is doing business as Genesis Auto Dismantler, 617 Galveston St. #8. West Sacramento, CA 95605:

Veriamin Peychev, 30 Jarvis Circle, Sacramento CA 95834.

This business is conducted by an Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on .

/s/Veriamin Peychev

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the original document on file in this office. This certification is true as long as there are no alterations to the document, AND as long as the document is sealed with a red seal.

State of California
County of Yolo
Tony Bernhard, County Clerk
Date: June 6, 2002
by: /s/Ava Woodard, Deputy Clerk

June 12 19 26 July 3

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 02-01801 Loan No. 8020398486 Title Order No. 2703826 APN 045-570-271 FHA # 0436725812703 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 05/10/01. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On July 23, 2002, at 01:00 PM, **ARM FINANCIAL CORPORATION** as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded on 05/22/01 Instrument 2001-0016703-00, Book , Page of Official Records in the Office of the Recorder of YOLO County, California, executed by ANTONIO CORTEZ JR AND MARTHA P CORTEZ, HUSBAND AND WIFE, as Trustor, MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state). At: THE COURTYARD ENTRANCE TO THE BUILDING LOCATED AT 1350 HALYARD DRIVE (CORNER OF HALYARD & BEACON), WEST SACRAMENTO, CA, all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County, California describing the land therein: "As more fully described on the above mentioned Deed of Trust". The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 3253 SANTA CRUZ RD, WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95691. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to-wit: $194,013.43 (Estimated) Accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. Date: 07/02/02, **ARM FINANCIAL CORPORATION**, P.O. Box 85309, San Diego, CA 92186-5309, Sales Information (916) 974-6099, General Information (858) 689-9735 ROBERT OBSTARCZYK, ASSISTANT SECRETARY NPP0096158 07/03/02, 07/10/02, 07/17/02

CNS- 411992#
NEWS-LEDGER

LETTERS from page 7

Walters of the Sacramento Bee on June 28th under the headline "Tribes wield immense political power -- and are seeking even more."

In the article, Mr. Walters writes that "Gov. Davis signed a series of compacts that effectively handed the tribes a complete monopoly over casino gambling with little or no taxation." He further states, "the compacts Davis signed give the non-Indian communities virtually no say over what the tribes do, even though the projects may have heavy environmental and social impact." Mr. Walters further states, "the political power that the tribes possess is starting to bleed into non-gambling areas as well, such as the recent decision by the state Board of Equalization to allow the tribes to conduct retail sales without collecting sales taxes." The broadest extension of the Indian political powers, says Walters, states that a bill is being "zipped" through the legislature that would "prohibit the issuance of a construction permit of any project if a tribe declares it would have an adverse effect on the tribe's religion, with the tribe being the sole judge of that impact."

Now, if this is all true, and I read it in the Bee, so it has to be true, then all this could work out for the many dilemmas facing the folks of West Sacramento. We simply have to join forces here. First, the QUAD folks agree to back the tribe in building the casino. The tribe agrees to incorporate up-scale retail establishments within the casino. The tribe would further agree, working closely with the QUAD folks, to prohibit the issuance of any construction permits that would have an "adverse effect on the tribes religion" (wouldn't that make one local citizen angry). The opponents to any sales tax increase could do all their shopping at the many fine stores within the casino where the tribe would not charge any sales taxes. The city gets the huge land use taxes from the casino to be used to make our city a better place. The casino could launch a massive advertising campaign in the bay area offering luxury cruises up the Sacramento River to the Port of Sacramento and ending with days of fine entertainment offered by the casino. The city could build another park at the port for all the wealthy bay area cruise goers disembarking for the casino, maybe even call it "Port Walk". Think of the money that would bring in. Why the casino folks could even incorporate a seniors center within their luxurious building. The possibilities for bringing our community together are endless, just by working together.

Is everybody happy here?

Oh yeah, the roads. The city is counting on that sales tax increase of which a portion of it would be used to repair many of our dilapidated byways. Now let's think what is best for our city. We have lived with our road conditions for a long time. What's a little while longer. Besides, with that new rest area for bicycles on the way to Davis, we ought to start riding bikes more often anyway.

So, a call to arms. Work together citizens of West Sacramento. And thanks Dan Walters for showing us a way of making our city one of the premier places to live in California.

JOHN CURTIS
West Sacramento

Amend the Constitution

Now that the 9th Circuit Court in San Francisco has ruled "under God" an unconstitutional phrase for our pledge of allegiance to the flag of the USA, maybe the U.S. Supreme Court will review their previous ruling that it is unconstitutional for the Ten Commandments to be posted on public school grounds, since they contain religious references also.

Or maybe the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives will follow the Senate's "rebel salute" and specifically allow "under God" during our flag salute. Even if it takes another amendment to our U.S. Constitution, that amendment should be broad enough to allow religious diversity. Can we avoid falling into the trap of using politics to control religion? Or, using religion to control politics? How about religions practiced in countries where only that religion is allowed? Does that one religion then become mainly a political tool? Time will tell.

Again, just amend the U.S. Constitution (again), but be flexible and allow some diversity. Otherwise, we'll have more of the above.

WILLIAM A. LOWELL
West Sacramento

In support of initiative

I have been a resident of West Sacramento for over 40 years and have found it to be a peaceful and pleasant area to raise my family. My principal concern has always been the school district's failure to properly educate our young citizens up to standards of other school districts.

The document called the Premier City Initiative has recently been circulated and I was more than happy to sign it, after having read it very carefully. As a long distance union trucking employee I feel that it is the best hope we have of long-term local control of new endeavors coming into this area. For too long developers and the port district have given the go-ahead to heavy industrial users who have little or no regard for the residents who have bought homes in West Sacramento, possibly the largest investment of their lives.

It's about time the local population had a direct say as to what type of businesses we want in our area, and a means of controlling their uses, so that future development will enhance our area and provide meaningful local employment.

I urge all my fellow union members to get behind the Premier City Initiative and support the highest and best land use for all of us.

WM. LANDERBERG
West Sacramento

CELEBRITY extra

by Evelyn Green

Q. I'm a longtime fan of Yaphet Kotto ("Homicide: Life on the Street") and was wondering what he's doing now. — *Chiara W.*

A. Kotto is concentrating on developing projects for both features and television. One of those projects is a movie based on a poem, "God Woke," by Marvel creator Stan Lee ("Spider-Man"). Kotto will adapt the poem for the screen and also star in the film.

***

Q. I'm anxious to see the next Indiana Jones movie. In the past, Sean Connery played Indy's (Harrison Ford) dad. Is it true the new film will include Indy's son? — *Rick J.*

A. Steven Spielberg is said to be scouting for someone to play Indy's offspring. But, it wouldn't surprise me if the young'un proved to be a daughter. Indeed, the women who have shared his adventures have always been strong and brave, so why not continue the tradition with a stalwart female Jones. And if so, remember you read it here first.

***

Q. Years ago I read a story about George Reeves, who played "Superman" on TV (in the 1950s). I recently read that there may be a movie about him coming out soon. Also, has anyone pointed out that he shared a last name with another Superman portrayer who had a tragic accident, and I refer to Christopher Reeves. —*Courtney S.*

Harrison Ford

A. First, let me note that the two men's names are not the same: Christopher Reeve, who was left paralyzed after a fall from a horse, spells his last name without a final "s."

As for your question, yes, there is a movie in the works from Miramax that will explore Reeves' suicide (if it was a suicide!) and the events leading up to his death.

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Advice

July 8-14, 2002

Dear Diane...

By Diane Verhøeven

DEAR DIANE:

My parents are both in their 70s, and as you probably have guessed, they are both on a fixed income. Neither of them works, so all they get is their Social Security checks every month.

What bothers me is that they are constantly traveling — and not just little day trips somewhere close by, but long-distance vacations, sometimes for up to a month at a time.

I can't possibly imagine where they're getting the money to afford such lavish excursions, but my husband suspects that my parents are running up a huge credit-card debt.

To make matters worse, this past weekend I received a phone call from my father, and he asked if my husband and I would like to join them on a tour of the French wine country this September.

I told him that I couldn't afford to go on a trip of that magnitude, certainly not on such short notice. My father then said the most shocking thing to me, "Doris, just how much time do you think you'll have with us before your mother and I die?"

I was speechless. Now I don't know what to do. What do I do?

— WORRIED IN WILKES-BARRE

DEAR WORRIED:

You should talk to your mother about her and your father's reckless spending of money they don't have. If you can't get any sensible talk out of mom or dad, you might want to have your parents checked by a doctor for signs of dementia.

Don't feel guilty about what your father said. You can spend a lot of time with your parents without spending your life's savings on a trip to France.

Good luck, dear. I hope things turn out for the best.

Send letters to Diane c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Or e-mail her at dianeadvice@aol.com.

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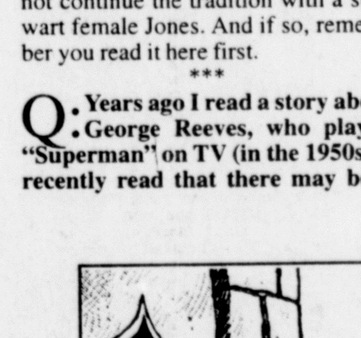
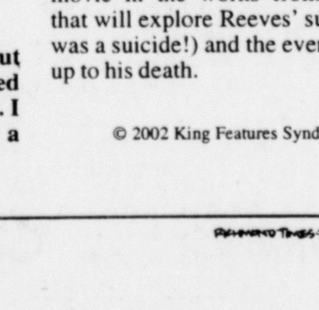
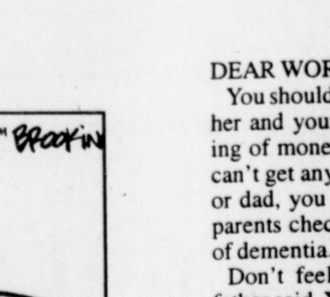


"He's not as much of a watchdog as he is nosy."



"I realize it's dress-down Friday, Bob. But get a grip!"



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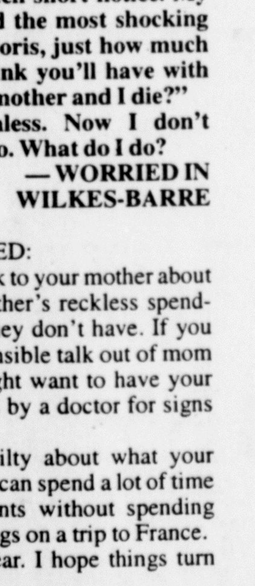

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Local Scene

Reunion

River City High School's class of 1982 will meet July 27-28. For more information, call Lisa (Stinchfield) Meline at 366-3668, or Kelly Rochester, 375-6640.

Learn to row

You've seen the rowers and their boats gliding under the Lake Washington Blvd. bridge, or near the Jefferson Blvd. locks. Now you have an opportunity to join them. The River City Rowing Club is hosting three, three-week "Learn to Row" programs, each consisting of ten morning practices – Saturdays 9-11 a.m. and Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5:45-7:30 a.m. in West Sacramento. Sessions begin July 7 & July 27. Call (916) 419-7088 or visit www.RiverCityRowing.org.

Bible School

First Baptist Church will hold its Vacation Bible School July 15-19 from 9 a.m. to noon. Kids three years old through eighth grades are invited. Bible stories, crafts, games, prizes, snacks and more. Call 371-4061.

Free kids' lunches

The City of West Sacramento's Parks & Community Services Dept. announces free lunches through a USDA program, in conjunction with the "Summer K.I.D.S." program at Bryte Park, Elkhorn Park, Westfield School, Memorial Park, Linden Park and Meadowdale Park, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 24 to Aug. 2. Lunch hours are different at each location. Call 373-5860 for information on the K.I.D.S. program and lunches.

Bowling league

Men and women 50 years old and up are invited to join a mixed summer bowling league at Capitol Bowl in West Sacramento. League meets Fridays at 1 p.m. Call Rod Rodrigues, (916) 456-6977 or Capitol Bowl at 371-5631 for information.

Astronomy

A "festival of astronomy and related sciences" will be open to the public at the Veterans Memorial Center, 203 E . 14th St. in Davis, two nights this month. Free astronomy activities, workshops and presentations will be held 4-10 p.m. on Friday, July 19, and 9 a.m. to midnight on Sat., July 20. There will be an exhibit hall, planetarium shows, astronomy and telescope clinics and public telescope viewing. Call (877) 713-2847 for more information.

Softball

The West Sacramento Parks and Community Services Dept. is accepting signups for men's, co-ed and church co-ed softball teams to begin play July 29. Entry deadline is July 12. $320 per team includes ten-game schedule plus single-elimination playoff. Call 373-5860.

Swimming

The city parks department announces that the pool at Golden State Middle School is open for recreational swimming from 3-5 p.m. Monday-Friday and Saturdays noon to 4 p.m.; and is open for family swimming 7:45-9 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The River City High School pool is open for recreational swimming noon to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Swim classes are still open for a session July 8-19 and for two later sessions. Call 373-5860.

No boredom

Help stamp out summer boredom among kids. Order a copy of "Fun in the Sun," a summer resource and activity guide for families in Yolo County, produced by the City of Davis. Many events in the guide are free or low-cost. For a copy of the guide, or for a list of summer camps in the area, call (800) 378-5044 and ask for Letti, Anna, Lynn or Rossana. "Fun in the Sun" can also be found at www.city.davis.ca.us/pcs/childcare/.

Liberty Ship visits

The World War II 'Liberty Ship' SS Jeremiah O'Brian will visit the Port of Sacramento and host visitors over the Labor Day weekend. The ship will arrive to a welcoming barbecue and jazz session Friday, Aug. 30 at 6 p.m. A welcoming ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. Saturday, and a veterans' ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. The ship will be open for tours through Monday evening.

Rib dinner

The West Sacramento Elks Lodge will host an all-you-can-eat rib dinner Sat., July 6, at 6 p.m. at 423 Third Street. Cost is $10. Call 372-3131 for information or tickets.

Interfaith

The local Interfaith group will hold a brown-bag lunch at noon on Friday, July 7, at Holy Cross Catholic Church, Todhunter & Anna streets. Agenda items include the July 28, 4 p.m. interfaith worship service and the July 30, 6:30 p.m. potluck and game night.

Volunteers sought

The office of Yolo Co. Supervisor Lois Wolk reports that the county's Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Committee needs three new members. Two must be parents of a "special needs" child, and the third must be a school health professional. All must reside in Yolo County. Call Wolk's office at (530) 666-8622.

July 4 picnic

The VFW Post 8762 will host a Fourth of July barbecue picnic at 4 p.m. July 4, with hamburgers, chicken and more. Call 371-7245 for details.

Washington High

Washington High School will hold its "all-class reunion" on July 27, sponsored by the Class of '72. For more information, call Suzanne De Foor, 371-0869.

Kids' playgroups

The City of West Sacramento Parks and Community Services Dept. invites parents in the city to gather with their children any Wednesday at 10 a.m. at Sam Combs Park, 205 Stone Blvd. Parents may exchange stories and hints, may meet other parents to arrange to form playgroups at other times. On the last Wednesday of each month, a city representative will be on hand with information on upcoming events. Call 373-5860 for further information.

Jazzercise

The local parks department offers 60-minute "jazzercise" exercise-to-music classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:45 p.m. at Southport Elementary School; on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. at the Harbor Community Center; and at 9 a.m. on Saturdays at the West Sacramento Senior Center. A variety of fee options are available – show up for details. Call 373-5860 for more information.

Junior gourmets

The City of West Sacramento offers a class for kids to learn how to cook breakfast, lunch and dinner. Basic sanitation and safety are covered. Students will eat what they prepare. Kids age 8-14 are invited. The class will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30-6 p.m., July 9-25. Cost is $35 and preregistration is necessary. Call 373-5860.

Suicide prevention

Volunteers are needed to be trained as crisis line counselors for Suicide Prevention and Crisis Services in Yolo County. Volunteers need to be ready to allocate six hours per week. Individuals bilingual with Spanish/English are especially needed. Training session begins June 25. Call (530) 756-7542.

Kids' bus passes

Yolobus is again offering its "Summer Sizzler" program, providing kids 17 and under with discounted bus passes through the summer. Youngsters 5-17 can ride for just 25 cents to any Yolobus destination, including UC Davis, downtown Sacramento, and locations close to Old Sacramento, Raley Field and the Vacaville Factory Outlets. Youths may also purchase a summer pass for $10 at city hall. Call (530) 661-0816.

Art reception

A reception for West Sacramento Art Guild artists exhibiting at the library will be held on July 13 from 2-4 p.m. at the Arthur F. Turner branch library, 1212 Merkley Ave. The public is welcome. Artists interested in joining the guild are especially welcome.

Bible School

Children 3-12 are invited to the Community Lutheran Church's annual Vacation Bible School Overnight retreat, beginning Friday, July 12 at 5 p.m. and ending Saturday, July 12 at 5 p.m. Parents are welcome, too. The theme is "Way to Go! The Good Neighbor Tour." Bible stories, singing, praying, crafts, meals, games, sleepover and swimming. Call 371-8804.

Auction

The public is invited to an art auction and sale to benefit a planned playground at Joy Christian Ministries. The event will be held 7-9:30 p.m. at the church, 825 Sunset Ave., on Saturday, July 6. Call 375-0066.

Marathon, anyone?

Anyone interested in becoming part of a West Sacramento group training for marathons is invited to call Jane at 373-9674 before July 8. Walkers, run-walkers or runners are welcome.

If it's not in 'Local Scene,' it's not publicized.

Give us the 'who, what, when, why and where' for your next local, public event.
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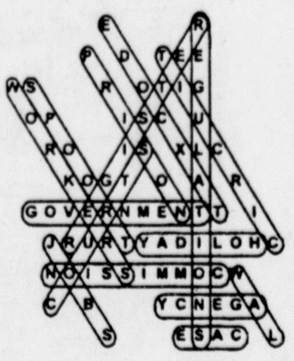
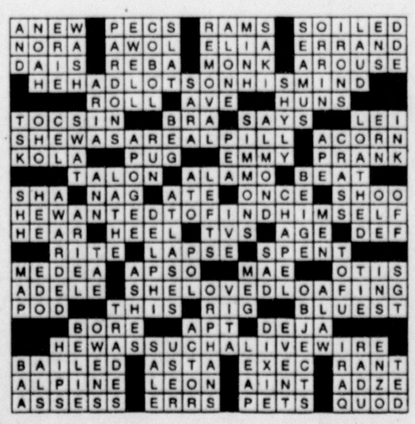
The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe, and family, arrive at their summer home.

Answers to Puzzles & Sports Quiz

Answers

1. Four; the Orioles won it in 1969-71 and lost to Oakland in 1973.
2. Ken Caminiti did it in 1995 while playing with San Diego.
3. He is in 11th place with 11,236 yards.
4. It was 1993.
5. Stan Mikita of Chicago had 87 points in 1967-68.
6. Seattle Slew in 1977.
7. Tab Ramos.





solution

2	3	3	4	12
1	3	2	4	10
6	1	6	2	15
5	2	7	2	16
14	9	18	12	13

Differences: 1. Pajamas are different. 2. Picture is gone. 3. Book cover is different. 4. Headboard decoration is gone. 5. Belt is missing. 6. Chair is different.

2001–2002 YOLO COUNTY GRAND JURY

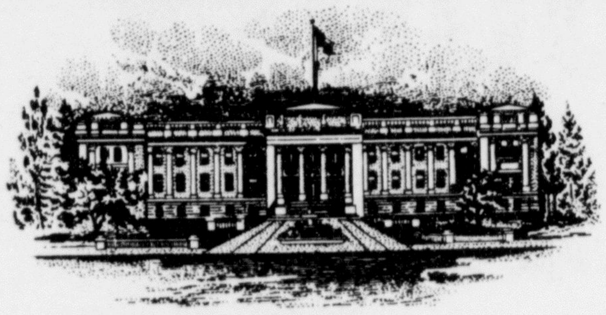
FINAL REPORT

A report for the citizens of Yolo County, California

June 28, 2002
Woodland, California

2001–2002 Yolo County Grand Jury Final Report

A Report for the Citizens of Yolo County



GRAND JURY
County of Yolo
P.O. Box 2142, Woodland, CA 95776 • (530) 666-8225

Hon. Thomas E. Warriner
Advisor Judge to the
Yolo County Grand Jury
Yolo County Superior/Municipal Court
625 Court Street
Woodland, CA 95695

June 28, 2002

Dear Judge Warriner:

As the foreman of the Yolo County Grand Jury, it is my duty to present to you, and to the citizens of Yolo County, the **Final Report of the 2001–2002 Yolo County Grand Jury.**

Service on a grand jury is certainly one of the manifestations of a free and democratic society. Jury service is both a privilege and a challenge. The general public is unaware of the magnitude of the demands made upon a grand jury. In addition, the rank-and-file practitioners of the law are vaguely aware of the mission of the grand jury and the significance of the volunteer hours dedicated to realize that mission.

The privilege of service was clearly demonstrated by the jurors' unfaltering willingness to perform their duties under the mandate of the law. The challenge of serving can be demonstrated by statistics:

- 13 complaints were received and logged for review;
- 9 complaints moved to the status of investigation;
- 15 indictment proceedings were heard and signed;
- 4 legislative mandated tours and inspections of government agencies were conducted;
- 7 public presentations were made to various community organizations;
- 15 subpoenas were processed and issued;
- 3,000 + juror hours were expended in the pursuit and judgment of fact; and
- 9 specialized committees and sub-committees were established and charged.

The jury hereby thanks the multitude of county agencies who provided complete and competent cooperation in providing resources, information and staff support, thus permitting the jury to conduct its business with dignity and a high degree of professionalism.

The jury also thanks its advisory judge for his priceless, unswerving, timely, sage, and practical advice and counsel.

Sincerely,

Charlotte I. Beal
Foreman
2001–2002 Yolo County Grand Jury

Introduction

The California Constitution requires each county to appoint a grand jury to guard the public interest by monitoring local government. The Yolo County Superior Court appoints 19 grand jurors each year from a pool of volunteers. The Yolo County Grand Jury is an official, independent body of the Court, not answerable to administrators or the board of supervisors.

Unlike grand juries in other states, a California grand jury's primary responsibility is to promote honesty and efficiency in government by reviewing the operations and performance of county and city governments, school districts, and special districts. Based on these reviews, the grand jury issues a report which may recommend changes in the way government conducts its business. Copies are distributed to public officials, county libraries, and the news media. The head of each government agency reviewed must respond to grand jury recommendations within 90 days. (See appendix for responses to the 2000–2001 grand jury report.)

The grand jury also investigates complaints from private citizens, local government officials, or government employees. Complaints must be submitted in writing and should include any supporting evidence available (you can request a complaint form at your local library or from the grand jury at P.O. Box 2142, Woodland, CA 95776). Grand jurors are sworn to secrecy and, except in rare circumstances, records of their meetings may not be subpoenaed. This secrecy ensures that neither the identity of the complainant nor the testimony offered to the grand jury during its investigations will be revealed. The grand jury exercises its own discretion in deciding whether to conduct an investigation or to report its findings on citizen complaints.

The grand jury's final responsibility is to consider criminal indictments, usually based on evidence presented by the district attorney. On its own initiative, however, the grand jury may investigate charges of malfeasance (wrongdoing), misfeasance (a lawful act performed in an unlawful manner), or nonfeasance (failure to perform required duties) by public officials.

To be eligible for the grand jury, a citizen must be at least 18 years old, have resided in Yolo County for at least one year, exhibit ordinary intelligence and good character, and possess a working knowledge of English.

Following a screening process by the Court, grand jurors are selected by lottery. If you are interested in becoming a grand juror, submit your name to the Jury Commissioner, 725 Court Street, Room 303, Woodland, California, 95695, or telephone (530) 666-8600.

The 2001–2002 Yolo County Grand Jury

Sally Barrett, *Woodland*
Charlotte Beal, *Woodland* (Foreman)
Frank Cooper, *Woodland*
Linda Cortez, *West Sacramento*
Candace Cross-Drew, *Davis*
Rush Darigan, *Davis*
Ron Fisher, *Davis*
Jerry Helm, *Woodland*
Cherie Kindel, *West Sacramento*
Ann Kokalis, *Davis*
Virginia Nichols, *Woodland*
Bob Noel, *Woodland*
Mike Owen, *West Sacramento*
David Rochester, *West Sacramento*
E. Rip Roelling, *Woodland*
Lucy Rosenau, *Davis*
Nadine Salonites, *Woodland*
Rudy Sims, *Dunnigan*
Janet Winn, *Woodland*

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Investigations

Yolo County Housing Authority

REASON FOR REVIEW

In response to a citizen's complaint, the grand jury investigated some of the practices of the Yolo County Housing Authority (YCHA). Because the complaint addressed more issues than the grand jury could responsibly investigate in the time allowed, we decided to concentrate on those issues we considered most susceptible to improvement if the complainant's allegations proved true. Specifically, we investigated whether YCHA employees are being mistreated, whether there is meaningful oversight of YCHA operations and spending, and whether the recently formed Yolo Housing Foundation is of benefit to the citizens of Yolo County.

BACKGROUND

Established by the Yolo County Board of Supervisors in 1950 to administer public housing for low-income residents, the YCHA today owns low-income housing in the communities of West Sacramento, Woodland, Winters, Esparto, Knights Landing, and Yolo and administers migrant-labor camps in Davis, Madison, and Dixon. YCHA also administers the federal Section 8 housing program in the county, awarding vouchers to low-income residents who can use them to rent private housing from willing landlords.

The great majority, approximately 90 percent, of YCHA funding comes from the federal government, through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The state of California and local communities provide the remainder.

Yolo County itself does not fund any of the YCHA programs, but has statutory responsibility for the housing authority through its board of commissioners, who are appointed to that office by the board of supervisors. The board of commissioners, volunteers who serve two- or four-year terms, set policy for the authority, appoint its executive director, and approve its annual budget ($12 million in fiscal year 2000–2001).

In 1999, the YCHA commission established the Yolo Housing Foundation, a nonprofit corporation that will fund the development of permanent low-income housing in Yolo County.

YCHA's longtime director retired four years ago. In December 1998, following actions by the YCHA commission that appear to have contributed to the hostilities and suspicions pervading the YCHA, the commission hired the current executive director.

In a 2001 vote, YCHA employees decided to join the Teamsters union. At the time of our investigation, contract negotiations were underway.

FACTS

Workplace environment

1. As a workplace, YCHA is festering with rumors, resentments, mistrust, hostility, and accusations of racism and sexism.
2. The executive director and, to a lesser degree, the YCHA commission are the focus of much of the resentment.
3. Witnesses say the executive director intimidates and demeans staff, especially female employees.
4. Employees complain about covert and overt racism that is tolerated or perpetrated by the director.
5. The director attributes staff complaints to resentment from Anglo employees about the hiring of a Hispanic director, and to changes he implemented on arriving at YCHA.
6. Employees feel they have no recourse. One Hispanic witness testified: "I don't think [the commission] has any idea [about the workplace environment], and I don't think they'd care if they did." Moreover, because grievances against the director are investigated by a law firm under contract to YCHA, employees distrust the fairness of the grievance procedure.
7. A 1999 lawsuit brought by three employees against the YCHA, its commission and director, is only the most glaring symptom of the workplace conditions prevailing at YCHA.
8. According to testimony we received, more lawsuits are likely if conditions do not improve.
9. Settling the lawsuit increased YCHA's insurance premiums. YCHA is insured through the Housing Authorities Risk Retention Pool (HARRP). As a direct result of the lawsuit (HARRP cited doubts about a YCHA commissioner's testimony and veracity as its primary reason for settling with the plaintiffs), YCHA now has a 50 percent deductible for errors and omissions coverage, instead of the standard 10 percent it previously paid, and its premium doubled.
10. According to an analysis of legal costs commissioned by the grand jury, "legal expenses related to personnel cases and grievances [are] the largest single type of legal expense of the Housing Authority, ... [comprising] one-third of all Housing Authority legal expenditures."
11. In recent years, the YCHA commission required the presence of an attorney at all commission meetings in response to lawsuits by staff and what it perceives as staff hostility to the commission.

Oversight of spending and operations

12. The YCHA currently pays $140 an hour for legal services.
13. The county counsel's office charges $80 an hour for the services of a staff attorney on contract to a special district or semiautonomous authority like YCHA per a Master Fee Resolution enacted by the Yolo County Board of Supervisors. That rate represents the real cost to the county of a staff attorney's time.
14. The county counsel's office is qualified to perform all types of legal work.
15. The YCHA spent $146,990 on legal services in fiscal year 2001.
16. The director currently serves as president of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and YCHA hosts the Chamber's annual Hispanic Mixer as part of the community outreach authorized by the YCHA commission.
17. Although HUD requires regular accounting from the YCHA on the programs it runs with HUD money, a recent change in HUD rules increased the amount of federal money housing authorities may spend on operations (rather than housing programs).
18. At the request of the commission, YCHA employees now must sign out YCHA vehicles and maintain mileage logs, as county employees do.
19. The grand jury inspected the sign-out forms/mileage logs in use at YCHA at the time of our investigation and found them so incomplete and illegible as to be meaningless.
20. The personnel policies and procedure manual, in use at the time of our investigation and approved by the commission, vests the director with unilateral power for hiring and firing and lists "improper political activity"

as sufficient justification for firing. The term "improper political activity" is not defined.

21. YCHA has used the same firm of CPAs to audit its financial records for the past eight years.
22. The CPA's recommendations on needed improvements at YCHA are not implemented promptly. One recommendation, that YCHA tighten its internal controls over the Section 8 program, recurred in the audit reports for 1999 and 2000.

Yolo Housing Foundation

23. The YCHA commission established the Yolo Housing Foundation in response to HUD's declared intention to reduce its support of housing authorities and its concomitant encouragement for housing authorities to reduce their dependence on federal funds by creating nonprofit development corporations.
24. With the approval of the board of supervisors, YCHA can issue low-interest bonds to qualified nonprofits which can then use the bond money to purchase or develop properties to rent to low-income tenants. Any rent money left over after repaying YCHA accrues toward the purchase or development of more properties.
25. The Yolo Housing Foundation is registered as a nonprofit organization with the California secretary of state and with the Franchise Tax Board and Internal Revenue Service.
26. The Franchise Tax Board and IRS require detailed annual reporting from registered nonprofits, and those reports are public documents.
27. The bylaws of the Yolo Housing Foundation prohibit its officers (who are the YCHA commissioners) from receiving any salary; those bylaws cannot lawfully be changed without refiling with the secretary of state.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All of the staff we interviewed appeared dedicated to the mission of the YCHA. We were impressed with their compassion and dedication.
2. The discord within the YCHA is long-standing, bitter, and growing worse.
3. We cannot conclude definitively who at YCHA is responsible for the climate that exists there, but believe that both the staff and the director contribute to the overall unhappiness. Changes the director implemented early in his tenure may have contributed to the animosity that much of the staff expresses toward him.
4. Neither the YCHA commission nor the executive director appears to be making significant headway at improving labor relations within the agency. Much of the dissatisfaction appears entrenched and may be irresolvable.
5. Union representation is the best solution, and perhaps the only practical one, to employee grievances and disaffection. It will require the adoption of new personnel policies based on the terms of the contract negotiated.
6. Current oversight of the YCHA is insufficient. Although HUD oversees how its monies are spent and its programs run (and applies sanctions when housing authorities fail to meet its standards), the YCHA commission—a group of volunteers serving part-time—is not equipped to provide meaningful, regular oversight of the operations and staff of this agency.
7. There are insufficient checks and balances. A law firm employed by YCHA cannot be expected to fairly investigate complaints against YCHA, just as a CPA employed by the YCHA does not provide truly independent audits of YCHA finances and operations.
8. There is a risk of at least the appearance of impropriety when the same individual, in his capacity as YCHA director, routes public funds to a private organization of which he is president.
9. Although the Hispanic Mixer is intended to be open to all staff and residents, its name may suggest to some people that it is limited to people of Hispanic origin. A different name might antagonize fewer people and seem more welcoming.
10. The Yolo Housing Foundation appears aboveboard, necessary, and admirable in its promise to increase the permanent stock of affordable housing in the county.

RECOMMENDATIONS

02-01 The executive director should work with representatives of the labor union selected by YCHA staff to negotiate a fair and affordable contract promptly.

02-02 Until a union contract is ratified, the YCHA commission should replace the current personnel policies with policies more in line with county practice.

02-03 The YCHA commission should explore whether contracting with county counsel for legal services for the YCHA could make funds now being devoted to legal fees available for programs that assist the county's low-income residents.

02-04 The YCHA commission should ensure that audit recommendations are addressed without delay.

02-05 If it is not practical for the auditor-controller to annually audit the YCHA, the auditor-controller should at least spot check YCHA books at irregular, unpredictable intervals to provide at least partial independent audits.

02-06 The board of supervisors should review the findings of the Macias Consulting Group analysis of YCHA legal expenses commissioned by the grand jury and forwarded to the board.

02-07 The board of supervisors should reconsider the criteria it uses in selecting commissioners.

RESPONDENTS

Executive Director, YCHA (recommendation 02-01)
YCHA Commission (recommendations 02-01 through 02-04)
Auditor-Controller, Yolo County (recommendation 02-05)
Board of Supervisors, Yolo County (recommendations 02-06 and 02-07)

SOURCES

Since perceptions of hostile work environment are necessarily subjective, the grand jury interviewed a sample of 16 of the 40 current YCHA employees to try to get an accurate picture of the situation. We did not directly observe the workplace environment since a visit by the grand jury is an additional stressor; the presence of the grand jury at the YCHA would change the environment, negating the value of any observations we might have made.

The grand jury thanks the district attorney's office and our legal adviser for their counsel and considerable material assistance to this investigation.

Persons Interviewed

Executive Director, YCHA
General Services Manager, YCHA
Member, YCHA Commission

(INVESTIGATIONS: Yolo County Housing Authority–continued on next page)

Former employee, YCHA
14 supervisors, managers, and staff of YCHA
County Counsel, Yolo County

Documents Examined

YCHA mileage/vehicle sign-out logs
"Yolo County Housing Authority: Analysis of Legal Expenditures for Fiscal Years 1999 to 2001," commissioned for the grand jury from Macias Consulting Group
Harn & Dolan audit reports of the YCHA for 1999, 2000, and 2001
"Yolo County Housing Authority Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual," March 2001
Housing Authorities Risk Retention Pool correspondence to the YCHA
Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation of Yolo Housing Foundation
2001 balance sheet, Yolo Housing Foundation

Yolo County Communications–Emergency Service Agency

REASON FOR REVIEW

As part of its oversight of local government, the grand jury investigated reported problems at the Yolo County Communications–Emergency Service Agency.

BACKGROUND

Established in 1988 to provide a variety of public safety services for the cities and outlying areas of Yolo County, the Emergency Service Agency answers 911 calls and dispatches the appropriate help.

The Emergency Service Agency operates under a Joint Powers Authority established by the county and the cities of Woodland, West Sacramento, and Winters. The City of Davis uses the agency's computer-aided dispatch system under contract.

FACTS

1. At the time of our investigation, the dispatch center was understaffed, with only five dispatchers per shift instead of the six needed.
2. Dispatchers work 12-hour shifts. Because of the short-staffing, overtime is required and vacations or time-off are subject to cancellation.
3. It takes approximately four months to hire new dispatchers, who then serve a probationary period of 18 months. Six months is needed just to learn to answer the phones, and all employees are subsequently trained for another three weeks at a state academy.
4. Morale is low among the dispatchers and supervisors we interviewed: employees complain about management style and about not receiving evaluations.
5. The equipment in the dispatch center is antiquated, as are the car radios and shoulder microphones used by some patrol officers.
6. Officers report that they have trouble understanding radio transmissions from the dispatch center because of equipment problems and bleed-over from transmitters in other counties.
7. Outlying rural areas like Capay Valley, Cache Creek, Clarksburg, Putah Canyon, and County Road 40 are particularly troublesome for radio reception.
8. The dispatch center—a two-story building with no elevator—is not acccessible to people with disabilities. It is also uncomfortable and depressing: the walls are covered with soot, there are neither windows nor ergonomic work stations, and the heating and cooling system works poorly.
9. Equipment is replaced only as needed, with the result that different generations of equipment are in use.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The Emergency Service Agency needs a physical overhaul of its building and equipment.
2. Both officer and public safety are compromised by inadequate communications equipment.
3. Low morale is directly attributable to management style.

RECOMMENDATIONS

02-08 The Joint Powers Authority and the director of the Emergency Service Agency should look into what changes are necessary to improve morale, including increasing staffing, updating equipment, and improving or replacing the building that houses the dispatch center.

02-09 The Joint Powers Authority and the director should closely supervise, and if necessary replace, the communications manager.

02-10 The director should follow the procedures in the employee manual concerning evaluations.

02-11 Equipment needs to be updated to meet present and future demands. The budget should include funds to provide and maintain a standard of safety and to bring the agency into compliance with the 800 megahertz mandate from the Federal Communications Commission.

02-12 The 2002–2003 grand jury should review the agency to determine if safety and management problems have been adequately addressed.

RESPONDENTS

Executive Director, Yolo County Communications–Emergency Service Agency (recommendations 02-08 through 02-11)
Joint Powers Authority of Yolo County Communications–Emergency Service Agency (recommendations 02-08, 02-09, and 02-11)
Yolo County Board of Supervisors (recommendations 02-08, 02-09, and 02-11)

SOURCES

Persons Interviewed

10 dispatchers and supervisors, Yolo County Communications–Emergency Service Agency
Director, Yolo County Communications–Emergency Service Agency
Communications Manager, Yolo County Communications–Emergency Service Agency
Police officer, West Sacramento
Police officer, Woodland
Sheriff's deputy, Yolo County

Esparto School District

REASON FOR REVIEW

The Grand Jury received several complaints about the sudden budget deficit experienced by the Esparto School District. Complainants requested a complete investigation of the district to address their concerns about poor or inappropriate communications, Brown Act violations, and suspicions of outright financial corruption.

BACKGROUND

School financing in California is complex. School district budgets are based on revenue estimates made before the school year starts, but a major percentage of the actual revenue entitlement is not finally determined until the end of the school year, after the money has been spent. Anticipated revenues come primarily from the state and include payment for average daily attendance (ADA) and cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), calculated according to state law and budget. The budget estimates are officially revised twice during the school year, once in December (the first interim report), and then in March (the second interim report), based on changes in ADA and other changes in expenditures. These interim reports are prepared by the school district and approved by the school board of trustees before being submitted to the county Office of Education. The estimated ending balance is submitted to the county Office of Education at the end of the school year, in June, and the actual ending balance is due September 15. If the estimates are incorrect, the school district can end up with a deficit or surplus of funds for the previous year.

School boards of trustees are responsible for planning, preparing, adopting, implementing, and evaluating a district's budget and for supervising the district superintendent and school principals.

California's Ralph M. Brown Act, enacted in 1953, requires that meetings of local government agencies, such as the Esparto school board of trustees, be open to the public. Meetings, as defined in the Brown Act, include "any congregation of a majority of the members of a legislative body...to hear, discuss, or deliberate upon any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body." The Act prohibits any "use of direct communication" or "technological devices" by a majority "to develop a collective concurrence as to action to be taken on an item" by the legislative body. Using telephones, e-mail, and facsimile devices to develop such a collective concurrence falls within the prohibitions of the Brown Act.

FACTS

1. The Esparto School District ended fiscal year 2000/01 with a deficit of approximately $500,000. An incorrect budget submitted for school year 2001/02 showed a starting surplus.
2. A lengthy examination by the county Office of Education and by a temporary chief business officer (CBO) hired by the Esparto School District to review the financial records found no evidence of embezzlement or misappropriation of funds.
3. An outside audit done by an independent firm of auditors who had no previous relationship with the Esparto School District found no evidence of embezzlement or misappropriation of funds.
4. The budget deficit and the incorrect communication of a surplus were the result of a number of failures.
5. The previous CBO submitted an incomplete and inaccurate report in April 2001 for the second interim report.
6. In June 2001, that CBO again submitted an incomplete and inaccurate budget.
7. The previous superintendent of the Esparto School District failed to notice the lax bookkeeping and the lack of preparatory materials that should have accompanied the April interim report and 2001/02 budget that went to the board of trustees.
8. The board approved in June 2001 the new budget for year 2001/02 without properly reviewing the numbers. The board relied on the CBO and the superintendent to develop an adequate budget, even though the board had by then effectively dismissed those officers.
9. The board of trustees did not follow its own policies and procedures in developing and adopting a budget.
10. The CBO and previous superintendent did not always submit budgets on time for review and consideration by the school board as required by the Education code for financial reports.
11. The previous superintendent negotiated a union contract with the teachers' union that gave the teaching staff a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of 9.2 percent. The State had given the school districts a COLA of 9.5 percent, which was intended to cover not only the increased teachers' salaries, but also increased utilities cost and other cost-of-living increases the district was facing. This contract was neither submitted to nor approved by the board of trustees.
12. A vacancy in the human resource position at the Esparto School District office contributed to this lack of communication. The county Office of Education was not informed of stipend increases, staff increases, and other changes in compensation, and did not detect the resulting fiscal impact.
13. New expenditures were readily approved by the board of trustees without evaluating their impact on the budget.
14. Stipends for extra work and professional development by the certified staff were readily approved by the former superintendent and the board in the belief that a surplus existed.
15. The district exceeded its budget throughout the year 2000/01 in the categories of credentialed staff, classified staff, utilities costs, and capital expenditures.
16. The board was not aware of the budget deficit until it was informed by the county Office of Education in mid-August. The district subsequently started the school year 2001/02 with a deficit.
17. Just as the new superintendent assumed his duties, in July 2001, he was informed of the budget deficit by the Office of Education.
18. The new superintendent had to make cuts in the budget for 2001/02 because the budget signed by the board did not meet the district's obligations or contain sufficient reserves and because the school district was in danger of being taken over by the state.
19. The new superintendent could balance the budget only by cutting positions that do not require early legal notice of dismissal: primarily classified payroll and certified staff stipends. Most other expenditures are obligations that, by law, must be met.
20. It appears the board may be having 'serial' meetings, that is, private meetings or conversations about board issues between several board members at a time.
21. The new superintendent has not consistently posted the location and meeting agenda 72 hours in advance, as required by the Brown Act.
22. The Esparto board of trustees and the new superintendent have displayed a cavalier attitude towards the Brown Act requirements for open meetings.
23. There is great distrust of the Esparto trustees within the community.
24. The board was disrespectful to speakers at a public board meeting; in one instance a board member yelled at a speaker to "Put a sock in it!"

(INVESTIGATIONS: Esparto School District–continued on next page)

25. Parents and teachers complain that the new superintendent has not responded to their queries promptly.
26. The Esparto School District board of trustees has not met its promise to previous grand juries to revise district policies and procedures.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The deficit did not occur at the end of the school year; rather it was the result of overspending throughout the year, mismanaging funds, and transferring funds without thought or consideration.
2. Neither the board of trustees, the then-CBO, the previous superintendent, or the county Office of Education appeared to be aware of this deficit.
3. The Office of Education's inability to detect Esparto's overspending is attributable to changes in the Esparto superintendent and CBO positions and a vacancy in the district's human resources office.
4. The new superintendent had no part in creating the deficit.
5. The lack of appropriate staff (i.e. clerical, CBO, human resources) hampered the new superintendent's ability to conform to Brown Act requirements and to respond promptly to queries.
6. The district's communication of the fiscal realities to the community and staff has been ineffective. Parents and teachers became frustrated because they did not understand the budget problems and they felt they were not being informed.
7. The community's distrust of the school board is partly the result of the board's own behaviors: its scant regard for the spirit of the Brown Act, the lack of respect and lack of courtesy displayed at board meetings, and poor communication skills.

RECOMMENDATIONS

02-13 The board of trustees needs to develop a standard way of reviewing spending requests and monitoring expenditures throughout the year. The board should consider the budget for the entire fiscal year at each of the interims and provide an easy-to-understand graphic document illustrating the budget at a public meeting. All hirings, contracts, stipends, and capital expenses should be noted on this document, which would serve to guide all budget decisions for the current period. Other school boards in the county that use this method can provide simple models for this document. The standardized method of reviewing spending requests and monitoring expenditures should be incorporated into the board's policies and procedures.

02-14 Budget workshops given by the California School Board Association (CSBA) should be required of all new board members, and this requirement should be incorporated into the revised policies and procedures.

02-15 The county Office of Education should monitor the Esparto school district budget more closely for the next two years.

02-16 Despite budget problems, it is critical to have staff in key positions. The district should hire clerical staff for the superintendent and fill the empty position in human resources. Having support staff will free the superintendent to devote his time to parents and students, the budget, the school board, and the other outreach necessary for a superintendent new to a community.

02-17 The board of trustees and the superintendent should develop additional ways of communicating with the community and with staff. Attending school and community functions is one way of opening informal channels of communication.

02-18 All trustees and the superintendent need once again to review the requirements of the Brown Act. Both the superintendent and the board should adhere strictly to both the letter and spirit of the Brown Act to help rebuild both trust and confidence. Both the board of trustees and the superintendent should remind themselves of the legislative intent of the Brown Act: "The people of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created." The board and the superintendent should attend Brown Act training under the direction of the county counsel, not their own legal counsel. County counsel should provide confirmation to the grand jury that board members and the superintendent participated in Brown Act training.

02-19 The board should attend training in communications and board skills, including training provided by the CSBA or Office of Education, to learn to decrease confrontations during meetings. All board members should attend the free meetings hosted by the county Office of Education to learn from other school trustees ways of communicating with the community and with staff.

02-20 A system of checks and balances would help protect the school district from the type of financial problems it now faces. Since the previous financial advisory committee has been reorganized to serve the superintendent, the board of trustees needs its own independent financial advisory group. To help the board monitor the budget, a new financial advisory committee should be established and trained by (or at the direction of) the Office of Education as part of its oversight of the Esparto School District. The financial advisory committee would be a subcommittee of the board and would follow Brown Act requirements.

02-21 The Esparto school board should immediately update its policies and procedures, with a special focus on developing better methods for monitoring the budget. The California School Board Association website includes sample bylaws and suggested procedures for school boards. The Esparto school board should consult this resource when rewriting its policies and procedures. A copy of the revised policies and procedures should be sent to the grand jury.

RESPONDENTS

Esparto School Board of Trustees (recommendations 02-13, 02-14, 02-16, 02-17, 02-18, 02-19, 02-20, and 02-21)

County Office of Education (recommendations 02-15 and 02-20)
Superintendent, Esparto School District (recommendations 02-17 and 02-18)
County Counsel (recommendation 02-18)

SOURCES

The grand jury observed the Esparto school board by attending or watching videotapes of its meetings.

Persons Interviewed

Complainants
Superintendent, Esparto School District
Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Yolo County
President, Esparto School Board
Interim Chief Business Officer, Esparto School District
Member, Davis School Board
Teacher, Esparto School District
Former Trustee, Esparto School Board
Member, Financial Advisory Group
Trustee, Esparto School Board
Union Representative, California Teachers Association

Documents Examined

Complaint
Final Esparto Unified School District 2001–02 Budget, revised November 29, 2001
Second Interim Report, Fiscal Year 1999/00, dated March 8, 2000
Second Interim Report, Fiscal Year 2000/01, dated March 18, 2001
Unaudited Actual Financial Report for FY 2000/01, dated November 29, 2001
Esparto School Board Policies and Procedures
Minutes of Esparto School Board, 2000–2001
Agendas of Esparto School Board, 2000–2001
Five-year Financial Analysis of the General Fund of the Esparto School District, by the Yolo County Office of Education
Independent Auditor's Report, Esparto Unified School District, for the year ending June 30, 2000
Esparto Unified School District Budget 2000/01, adopted June 20, 2001 (and rejected by the county Office of Education). Includes Budget Documents dated June 20, 2001
Memorandum from Esparto Superintendent to Esparto School Board regarding recommended 2001/02 fiscal year budget reductions, dated October 23, 2001
California Department of Education "Criteria and Standards Revisions for Budget and Interim Reports"
California Department of Education "Observations on the Financial Accountability and Reporting Processes"
News articles from the Daily Democrat on Esparto School Board Meeting
Terminix Environmental Survey of Esparto Middle School
Memorandum from Special Education Department, Esparto School District, Subject: Services
Declaration of "No Confidence" by the Esparto Teachers Association, January 15, 2002
Bylaws for the Financial Advisory Committee
Business & Noninstruction Operation for the Financial Advisory Committee
List of Members of the Financial Advisory Committee
Letter from CTA to Superintendent, Esparto School District, regarding Brown Act Violations
Letter from Superintendent, Esparto School District, to CTA regarding Brown Act Violations
List of Esparto teacher and parent concerns regarding the Superintendent and the Board of Education for the Esparto Unified School District
"Chapter 10 Understanding School Finance"
EdSource Document "School Finance 2001–02"
Miscellaneous budget assumptions and budget examples from other school districts
California School Board Association Professional Governance Standards

Davis Gymnastics

REASON FOR REVIEW

In response to a citizen's complaint alleging improper financial arrangements between employees of the City of Davis and the Davis Gymnastics Team, the grand jury investigated the city's financial relationship with the club.

BACKGROUND

The Davis Parks and Community Services Department offers a variety of recreational services to the residents of Yolo County, including non-competitive athletic classes. Students who want to compete may join privately sponsored teams that participate in athletic competitions.

Some of these independent teams are funded by nonprofit organizations which employ the same instructors as the city programs. So the same coach may instruct gymnastics classes part-time for the city and, as an employee of a nonprofit, prepare athletes for competitions.

FACTS

1. The Davis Gymnastics Team, a private nonprofit organization, funds coaching and administrative support for gymnasts who want to train for and participate in gymnastics competitions.
2. The organization pays its gymnastics coaches, who also work for the city as gymnastic instructors, quarterly.
3. The Parks and Community Services Department is familiar with the Davis Gymnastics Team, but does not support it financially, neither by providing venues for practices nor by paying for coaching.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Our investigation found no evidence to support the complainant's allegation.
2. Both the Parks and Community Services Department and the independent teams provide valuable opportunities to the youth of Yolo County.

SOURCES

Persons Interviewed

Complainant
Gymnastics instructor
Community Services Administrator, City of Davis

Woodland School Construction

REASON FOR REVIEW

Aware that parents of pupils at Woodland's Dingle Elementary School were angry that a multipurpose room promised that school was not being built, the grand jury inquired into Woodland Joint Unified School District policies for funding construction.

BACKGROUND

Woodland voters passed a bond measure in 1999 to fund construction at local schools. Work started at several schools in June 2001, but the

(INVESTIGATIONS: Woodland School Construction–continued on next page)

multipurpose room promised for Dingle had not begun at the time of our inquiry.

FACTS

1. The district needs matching funds promised by the state to construct the planned multi-purpose buildings.
2. The district-wide construction plan addresses the needs of all Woodland schools.
3. The state matching funds have been delayed.
4. The district is modernizing schools and building new multipurpose rooms as funds become available; because state funds are delayed, less-expensive projects are being scheduled first.
5. Lack of communication by the school district about the reason for the delay resulted in confusion and a degree of mistrust among parents.
6. The district no longer employs a communications officer because of funding constraints.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Implementation of the construction plan depends on the receipt of state funding, which is beyond the district's control.
2. School personnel need to better communicate with parents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

02-22 The Woodland Joint Unified School District should improve how it disseminates information; school principals should inform parents about the plans for their schools and ask parent groups or PTAs to help them with community outreach.

02-23 All district employees should have accurate information about district plans and policies so they can answer parents' questions.

02-24 The district should work with local media to publicize school construction projects and provide regular updates.

RESPONDENTS

Superintendent, Woodland Joint Unified School District (all recommendations)

SOURCES

Persons Interviewed

Chair, Woodland Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees
Parent representative

Documents Examined

"Money Needed to Finish WJUSD projects," Daily Democrat, April 10, 2002

Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

REASON FOR REVIEW

In response to a citizen's complaint alleging that a farmer stole water from the Flood Control and Water Conservation District, the grand jury investigated the incident.

BACKGROUND

The county Flood Control and Water Conservation District is responsible for maintaining a system of man-made irrigation canals and waterways and controlling water for agricultural use. The district employs field personnel, or ditch tenders, to monitor and assist in the distribution of water and record its use; office personnel then bill the appropriate users.

FACTS

1. Water was not paid for at the time of use (the account was subsequently billed and paid).
2. The district contracted with MBK Engineers to conduct an investigation of this matter.
3. A new computer system to aid in billing has been installed.
4. Morale, trust, and communication between field personnel and office staff is very poor.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The billing process was not properly followed.
2. Our investigation did not substantiate allegations of intentional misuse of the district's water.
3. Mistrust and low morale result from lack of communication between office and field personnel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

02-25 The management office and field personnel should review and upgrade as needed the operations and billing procedures of the district.

02-26 The grand jury should review district operations for the next two years.

RESPONDENTS

Board of Directors, Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (recommendation 02-25)

SOURCES

Persons Interviewed

District management, present and former
District field personnel
PG&E Official
Complainant

Documents Examined

MBK Engineers Investigation Memorandum
PG&E Electric billing statements
District water billing statements
District "Ditch Tenders Handbook"

Davis Farmers Market

REASON FOR REVIEW

In response to a complaint alleging that state regulations prohibit the Davis Farmers Market from including vendors of crafts to participate in the market, the grand jury investigated whether the Farmers Market is in compliance with state and local laws.

BACKGROUND

Certified in 1977, the Davis Farmers Market is now a popular, well-regarded twice-weekly marketplace for produce and crafts from mostly local growers and vendors. The Farmers Market is administered by an 11-member board of directors, some of whom are themselves market vendors, and a city-appointed manager. Vendors who wish to participate in the market must meet standards set by state and city regulations. Vendors pay the city a percentage of their sales to defray the costs of running the market.

FACTS

1. The market is subject to state regulations (Title 3, Chapter 1, Subchapter 4, Article 6.5) which limit who may sell at the market and define what products may be sold. A city ordinance—14.01 030 (a) (6)—that

states that the use of city property shall be determined by the city manager, is the authority for vendors of crafts to participate in the market.
2. The Farmers Market is in compliance with the state regulations and city ordinances that govern its operations.
3. The manager designates different market areas for the sale of different products, which include farm products, flowers, and crafts. The manager also has authority to decide how best to display all products for the beautification of the market.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Recognized throughout the state, the Davis Farmers Market is a unique asset to Yolo County.

SOURCES

Persons Interviewed
Complainant
Manager, Davis Farmers Market

Yolo County Public Guardian

REASON FOR REVIEW

In response to a citizen's complaint, and following a well-publicized case of embezzlement by an employee of the public guardian, the grand jury investigated the office's policies and procedures to ensure that appropriate safeguards have been implemented.

BACKGROUND

The public guardian receives referrals for conservatorship from outside agencies like Adult Protective Services, Social Services, and Mental Health. Referrals also come from hospitals, physicians, and psychiatrists. Before petitioning the court to be appointed conservator of an individual or estate, the public guardian's office investigates whether all alternatives to conservatorship have been exhausted.

Guardianship or conservatorship can be appointed for a person, an estate, or both. As conservator of an individual, the public guardian is legally responsible for seeing to the daily food, clothing, shelter, and financial needs of mentally or physically disabled persons and authorizing medical treatment. As conservator of an estate, the office manages the estate's finances: taking control of the assets, collecting income, paying bills, investing money, and protecting assets.

The public guardian's office also handles the estates of people who die in Yolo County and have no will or next of kin in California and people whose families are unwilling or unable to act for them, or when ordered by the court. A fiduciary relationship exists between the public guardian and the people and estates it protects.

FACTS

1. A loss of $97,630.50 from a conservatee's account occurred between January 19, 2000, and May 8, 2001.
2. The loss was investigated by the public guardian's office and referred to the district attorney.
3. The individual responsible for the loss was prosecuted and sent to state prison. The missing funds were replaced by the bonding company.
4. Bank statements are now opened by one staff member, then date stamped, copied, and distributed to two other employees for review and tracking.
5. Accounts not directly controlled by the public guardian are tracked monthly.
6. An Elder Abuse Specialty Team was established by the public guardian's office, county counsel, the district attorney, and the police departments in the four cities in Yolo County to educate local financial institutions on fraud and to create a stronger support system.
7. An outside auditor was hired to evaluate the internal controls of the public guardian's office.
8. The public guardian has implemented new policies and procedures in response to the recommendations of the outside auditor.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The public guardian's office is dedicated to preventing another such loss.

RECOMMENDATIONS

02-27 The public guardian's office should continue to follow the internal control procedures recommended by the outside auditor and to perform random audits of the outside conservatees' accounts.

RESPONDENTS

Public Guardian/Administrator, Yolo County (recommendation 02-27)

SOURCES

Persons Interviewed
Public Guardian/Administrator, Yolo County
Receptionist, Public Guardian/Administrator's office
Accountant, Public Guardian/Administrator's office
Superior Court Judge, Yolo County

Documents Examined
New procedures regarding fraud
New procedures regarding internal controls
"Audit Report for the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2001 and 2000"

Davis Cemetery District

REASON FOR REVIEW

In response to a citizen's complaint alleging violations of the California Health and Safety Code by the Davis Cemetery District, the grand jury investigated whether the cemetery district was improperly allowing the cemetery to be used as an off-leash dog park.

BACKGROUND

Overseen by a board of directors appointed by the county supervisor who represents the district, the Davis Cemetery District is a special district, a local government entity that exists for the sole purpose of operating the Davis cemetery.

Gravesites are situated on the cemetery district's lands that are nearest the center of town. The undeveloped back part of the cemetery, approximately three acres, is reserved for future gravesites. For the last 20 years dogs have had access to this area to run off-leash, something that is not allowed in most of Davis, where a city ordinance requires dogs to be kept on leashes in most public places.

FACTS

1. The Health and Safety Code of California, in Chapter 7, section 8961, states that cemeteries shall be limited in use to burial in the

(INVESTIGATIONS: Davis Cemetery District–continued on next page)

ground of residents or taxpayers of the district.
2. The Health and Safety Code of California, Section 8961.11, states that land acquired by a cemetery for future use may be leased to another public entity for recreational use.
3. The cemetery district allows dog owners to use the undeveloped portion of the cemetery as an off-leash dog park.
4. The cemetery district has posted many signs instructing dog owners to stay off the graves and use only the back, undeveloped areas.
5. The cemetery district provides plastic bags and a garbage can for disposal of dog feces.
6. On at least one occasion dog feces were found in the gravesite areas.
7. The undeveloped acreage is not currently leased to any public entity.
8. There is currently no means to enforce the requirement that dog owners use only the undeveloped area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

02-28 To better comply with the Health and Safety Code and to allow for enforcement of posted rules, the cemetery district should lease its undeveloped land to a public entity, such as the city of Davis, for use as a dog park.

02-29 The Davis Cemetery District should explore the feasibility of providing separate vehicle access for dog owners at the back of the undeveloped area to reduce traffic near the gravesites.

RESPONDENTS

Davis Cemetery District (recommendations 02-28 and 02-29)

SOURCES

Persons Interviewed

Chair, Board of Directors, Davis Cemetery District

Reviews

Yolo Adult Day Health Center

REASON FOR REVIEW

In response to a citizen's inquiry about the resources available at the Yolo Adult Day Health Center, the grand jury reviewed the agency and its services.

BACKGROUND

Using funds provided by the state, Yolo County in the early 1980s established what became the first built-to-purpose non-residential center in California for adults who need help to live independently, combining both medical and social services to promote maximum well-being and optimal autonomy for its clients. The center opened in January 1984. In 1990, with the assistance of a grant from the California Department of Aging, the Caregivers Assistance Safe Approach (CASA) program was added to provide specialized services to individuals with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias.

The county owns the Woodland building that houses the program and holds the license to the center; a non-profit organization, the Friends of Adult Day Health Center, assists by raising funds and educating the public about the center's services. Today, the Yolo Adult Day Health Center serves 40-50 clients daily, promoting their independence and self-esteem through social services, rehabilitation, and health care, and provides resources for home caregivers.

FACTS

1. The staff of Yolo Adult Day Health Care provide help with everyday activities—walking, transferring, eating, grooming, and personal care—and with managing clients' medical conditions. The center also provides speech, physical, and occupational therapy and assists clients in obtaining other health care services.
2. Social workers help clients and their families adjust to the center and provide them with referrals to counseling and support groups.
3. The center offers activities that help clients maintain their physical, intellectual, and social abilities and foster their self-confidence.
4. The noon meal and all snacks are nutritious and accommodate clients' special dietary needs.
5. The goal of the CASA program is to stimulate participants, maximize their abilities, and provide respite to home caregivers.
6. The center transports clients to and from home anywhere in the county.
7. Some of the costs of the CASA program are paid by the state and private organizations.
8. Otherwise, the cost of attending the center is paid by the client, Medicare, or private insurance.
9. The center is not large enough to accommodate the present demand.
10. Because the center's services are in high demand, a prospective client may have to wait four months or longer before being admitted into the program.
11. Once enrolled in the center, clients may remain until their condition improves enough so that they no longer have a need for the center's services.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The Yolo Adult Day Health Center is a credit to the county and an irreplaceable resource for people who are otherwise unable to care for themselves.
2. The grand jury was impressed with the outstanding care provided by the center.
3. More funding is required if plans for expansion are to be realized.

RECOMMENDATIONS

02-30 The board of supervisors should explore ways to provide more funds to enable the center to expand and accommodate an increasing and urgent need for its services.

RESPONDENTS

Board of Supervisors, Yolo County (recommendation 02-30)

SOURCES

Persons Interviewed

Program Supervisor, Yolo Adult Day Health Center

Yolo County Jails

REASON FOR REVIEW

The state Penal Code instructs grand juries to inquire into the condition and management of public prisons within their county. Yearly the Yolo County Grand Jury has reviewed the Monroe Detention Center and the Walter J. Leinberger Memorial Minimum Security Detention Facility. In the absence of complaints or obvious problems, the review has historically consisted of a one-day overview.

BACKGROUND

Monroe Detention Center

The Monroe Detention Center is the main jail for Yolo County. This 13-year-old, 93,000-square-foot facility is able to house 313 inmates of virtually every security classification. All controls and instrumentation are electronic, and Monroe is described as a direct supervision jail. When the inmates are out of their cells, they have access to indoor and outdoor exercise and recreation equipment, including television, table games, basketball, and soft-bound library books. Educational and social services include GED tutoring; literacy, parenting, and computer classes; alcohol and drug counseling; HIV counseling; anger management; and women's support groups. An on-site clinic staffed full-time by nurses or physician's assistants provides medical services.

Although no longer new, the Monroe Center is still considered a showcase facility, drawing professionals who come to observe how a modern, well-designed facility operates.

Leinberger Center

The Leinberger Center is for sentenced inmates who may work to reduce their jail time. The 15,150-square-foot facility houses 112 male and 30 female lower-security inmates in dormitories. Increasingly, the facility also serves to house suitable inmates from the Monroe Center when that jail is full. Inmates have access to the same programs as are available at the Monroe Center.

FACTS

1. The Yolo County detention facilities were still understaffed at the time of our review, though there had been a gain during the past year from a shortage of some 32 staff positions to a shortage of 15 staff positions.
2. A federal grant (Cops More) has provided funding for 12 more correctional officers at the Monroe Center.
3. The Sheriff's Department is requesting funding for another five correctional officers. This still leaves the detention facilities short fifteen positions, according to the Peace Officers Standard Training review.
4. Since it is difficult to recruit and train a large number of new officers at one time, recruitment and hiring is ongoing year-round.
5. Overtime expenditures for 2001-2002 are projected at $600,000, down from $832,067 for 1999-2000. This reduction of overtime reflects the hiring of new officers.
6. There will always be some overtime to staff the facility on holidays.
7. Staff turnover is fairly low. During 2001 ten correctional officers left: five did not complete their probation, three retired (but one returned), and two left for other reasons.
8. There are markedly fewer opportunities for female inmates to reduce their jail sentences through work than for male inmates.
9. To avoid favoritism, meals are delivered already dished so each inmate receives the same size servings.
10. Both detention facilities, no longer new, require more ongoing maintenance.
11. A deputy sheriff administers the Monroe Center and oversees a staff of correctional officers. The correctional staff is encouraged to acquire extra training and other professional development and is provided with uniforms and equipment to promote efficient work and positive morale.
12. Both the Monroe and Leinberger centers are approaching capacity during certain periods. The Monroe Center was designed to be expanded when necessary; the increasing population of Yolo County will soon require that expansion.
13. In the course of another investigation, the grand jury learned of one instance in which a visitor sign-in sheet was incorrectly used, resulting in an unauthorized visit.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The grand jury found a safe, clean, mostly well-maintained facility staffed by well-trained correctional officers and sworn officers who take pride in their work.

RECOMMENDATIONS

02-31 The Sheriff's Department should continue its efforts to fill available positions with qualified applicants and review pay schedules in comparison to other counties within commuting distance.

02-32 A sworn officer, with more training, experience, and judgment than correctional officers, should be present in the jail at all times. It is not realistic to expect that an on-call officer/administrator can respond to an emergency as if he or she were present.

02-33 The sheriff should develop work opportunities for women inmates whenever possible to achieve parity with the men.

02-34 Maintenance funding must keep pace as the buildings age. The sheriff and board of supervisors should make repairing or replacing unsafe surfaces such as unglued or worn carpet and loose tiles a priority.

02-35 The Sheriff's Department should tighten its controls over visitors to ensure that visitors sign-in correctly and meet only those inmates they are authorized to visit.

RESPONDENTS

Sheriff, Yolo County (all recommendations)
Board of Supervisors, Yolo County (recommendations 02-31, 02-32, and 02-34)

SOURCES

The grand jury conducted two half-day tours of the facilities that included discussions with the sheriff, correctional officers, and sheriff's deputies and a brief interview with a willing inmate.

Juvenile Hall

REASON FOR REVIEW

The 2000–2001 grand jury recommended that the 2001–2002 grand jury revisit the Yolo County juvenile hall to determine whether the remedies recommended by that grand jury had been implemented.

BACKGROUND

On August 26, 2001, the grand jury toured juvenile hall, a division of the Yolo County Department of Probation. Under the authority of California juvenile court law, juvenile hall

(REVIEWS: Juvenile Hall–continued on next page)

helps protect the public from the delinquent acts of minors by providing for their safe and secure reception and temporary care.

The existing facility was built in the 1960s and expanded in 1976–1977 to its current capacity of 30 residents. Since the facility does not meet current needs, the county is constructing a new building which the superintendent of juvenile hall predicts will be completed in 2004, one year later than was reported to the 2000–2001 grand jury.

In its report the 2000–2001 grand jury recommended that mirrors should be installed in the control room that would permit staff to observe the monitors from their desk.

FACTS

1. At the time of our review, line staffing was complete and the only vacancies were in the administration.
2. A recent study of salary schedules in comparable counties showed salaries at Yolo County juvenile hall are 11.2 percent lower than the average.
3. Typically, 25 percent of juvenile hall residents are classified "restricted," requiring closer supervision.
4. It is not unusual for the facility to house more than 40 children.
5. When Yolo County has more juveniles to house than it can accommodate, it can rent up to ten beds at Solano County's juvenile hall for $150 per bed each day.
6. Staff can provide limited mental health care; cases requiring more expertise are referred to the county Department of Mental Health.
7. Schooling is provided to juveniles during their residence by one on-site teacher, who has an emergency credential, and an instructional aide. The students function at a wide span of grade levels and educational achievement.
8. Yolo County also employs a full-time specialist in drug and alcohol education at juvenile hall. Residents who need further professional intervention are referred to the Department of Mental Health.
9. Community volunteers assist the staff by providing residents with clothing, haircuts, treats, tutoring, and mentoring.
10. The grand jury observed water stains on the ceilings in the halls and cafeteria.
11. A mirror has been installed in the control room as recommended by last year's grand jury.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The control room is still inadequate.
2. The grand jury was impressed by the positive attitudes and professionalism of the staff of juvenile hall.
3. The grand jury commends the Department of Probation and the Office of Education for employing the services of a highly qualified drug and alcohol education specialist and a dedicated teacher and aide.
4. Overcrowding may endanger both staff and residents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

02-36 Salaries at juvenile hall should be brought in line with those in comparable counties to reduce turnover.

02-37 The board of supervisors should make completing the new facility before 2004 a high priority.

02-38 The Department of Probation should support its teacher's efforts to become fully credentialed.

02-39 The control room in the existing facility should be redesigned so that staff can work facing the monitors.

02-40 The Department of Probation should arrange with neighboring schools for in-service eduction for the juvenile hall teaching staff and for sharing instructional materials.

RESPONDENTS

Director, Yolo County Department of Probation (recommendations 02-38 through 02-40)

Board of Supervisors, Yolo County (recommendations 02-36 and 02-37)

SOURCES

Persons Interviewed

Superintendent, Yolo County Juvenile Hall

Teacher, Yolo County Juvenile Hall

Director, Yolo County Department of Probation

Yolo County Library

REASON FOR REVIEW

The grand jury reviewed the county library system as part of its ongoing oversight of local government.

BACKGROUND

In addition to branch libraries in Clarksburg, Davis, Esparto, Knights Landing, West Sacramento, Winters, and Yolo, the Yolo County Library also operates the county archives. A card from any branch of the Yolo County Library permits the holder to check out materials from any other county branch.

The Woodland Public Library is operated by the city of Woodland, not the county, and is linked to the Sacramento County public library system. Yolo County residents who wish to check out materials from the Woodland library must apply for a separate card.

FACTS

1. Most branches include community rooms which are heavily used. At the West Sacramento and Esparto branches, the community rooms are in such demand that they are open for longer hours than the libraries themselves.
2. Growing populations of speakers of Russian and the languages of Southeast Asia have created a demand at the West Sacramento branch for more books and current periodicals in languages other than English or Spanish.
3. All branch libraries offer internet access.
4. State funding for libraries diminished after the passage of Proposition 13 and subsequent state deficits. The budget for the Yolo County Library comes from the county's general fund.
5. Although all branches need room to expand, the libraries in Winters, Yolo, Knights Landing, and West Sacramento are the most urgently in need of more space and repairs.
6. The bookmobile that brought library books to rural communities that lack a branch library has been out of service for the past three years and is currently inoperable.
7. Some librarians work at more than one library part-time because there is not enough demand to staff all the branches full-time.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The grand jury was impressed with the helpfulness and dedication of the library staff we encountered.
2. The county librarian maintains enthusiasm and optimism despite the limits of operating and expansion funds.

3. In the absence of sufficient state or county funding, local bonds are one way to finance the expansion of Yolo County libraries.

RECOMMENDATIONS

02-41 The Yolo County Library should add to its collection of materials in languages other than English and Spanish.

02-42 The board of supervisors should continue working to have state library funding restored and should consider other ways to fund needed library expansion.

02-43 The county librarian should investigate whether replacing the bookmobile with smaller vans would enable the library to restore service to outlying parts of the county.

02-44 If bookmobile service is restored, the county librarian should explore whether it is feasible for bookmobiles to carry laptop computers that could be used to access on-line catalogs.

RESPONDENTS

County Librarian (recommendations 02-41, 02-43, and 02-44)

Yolo County Board of Supervisors (recommendation 02-42)

SOURCES

The grand jury toured each branch of the Yolo County Library and examined the county archives.

Persons Interviewed

County Librarian

Library staff and volunteers

"The people of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created."

–The Brown Act

Indictments

The grand jury is empowered by the state Constitution to issue indictments, either on its own initiative or after hearing evidence presented by the district attorney. Although Yolo County grand juries rarely exercise this function, there are times when the grand jury, because it operates in secrecy, is a more suitable forum for hearing criminal evidence than an open court proceeding.

In November 2001, after five days of testimony and a day of deliberation, the Yolo County Grand Jury issued indictments charging 15 defendants with various but related crimes of murder, attempted murder, kidnapping, rape, drug trafficking, and witness tampering.

The indictment hearings were a challenging and sometimes gruesome experience. We deeply appreciate the care taken by the Yolo County Sheriff's Department and the office of the District Attorney to ensure the safety and comfort of all participants—witnesses as well as grand jurors.

Appendix

Responses to the 2000–2001 Grand Jury Report

In accordance with Section 933(c) of the California Penal Code, the governing body of a public agency or its designated administrator must respond to grand jury recommendations within 90 days. Elected officials must respond within 60 days. If respondents disagree with grand jury recommendations, they must explain why.

Below are the recommendations from the 2000–2001 report. Each recommendation is followed by an extract of the official response. The complete report is available at public libraries in Yolo County. The complete set of responses is available for public review at the office of the clerk of the board of supervisors.

Small Public Water Systems

01-01 The county should provide funding for full staffing of the division of Environmental Health (EH) to assure the safety of rural water supplies.

The Board of Supervisors provided a 12 percent equity increase in April 2001 to ensure the continuation of full staffing for Environmental Health services. The Board also approved an additional Environmental Health Specialist position for fiscal year 2001-2002 to enhance the ability of our staff to fulfill its obligations regarding the safety of rural water supplies for Yolo County residents.

More monitoring, source protection, enforcement, and consultation will be carried out.

01-02 When contamination makes system water unsafe to drink, the Yolo County Health Department should require operators of water systems to provide

(APPENDIX: Responses to the Grand Jury 2000-2001– continued on next page)

bottled water to consumers within 24 hours.

Although existing laws allow boiling water as one of the temporary solutions to address bacterially contaminated drinking water, the Health Department concurs with the grand jury that bottled water should be provided to consumers within 24 hours after a system has been determined to be contaminated. The department agrees that despite its relatively higher cost, bottled water is more likely to be used by consumers than boiling water because of convenience. EH will immediately formulate a policy to require that bottled water be provided by the system operator for drinking, cooking, brushing teeth, and hand washing within 24 hours after a system has been determined to be bacteriologically contaminated.

Juvenile Shelter

01-03 The county Department of Employment & Social Services (DESS) should ask the Community Care Licensing division of the state Department of Social Services to investigate the management and supervision of the juvenile shelter for consideration of continued licensing.

The director of DESS has forwarded a copy of the grand jury report to the Community Care Licensing Division with a formal request that a review of the emergency shelter operations be conducted to ensure that all state regulations governing group home operations, supervision, and management comply with state regulations.

01-04 The Yolo County Board of Supervisors should require the directors of the departments of Employment & Social Services and Probation and the Public Defender to jointly develop and endorse a plan to bring the county into compliance with the Welfare & Institutions Code.

The Board of Supervisors concurs with the grand jury recommendation.

01-05 A draft of any such plan should be submitted for review by the Family and Juvenile courts, the Yolo County Family Law Bar Association, and the County Counsel prior to its codification.

The Board of Supervisors will ensure that any plan to bring the county into compliance with the Welfare & Institutions Code will be submitted for review by the Family and Juvenile courts, the Yolo County Family Law Bar Association, and the County Counsel prior to its codification.

01-06 The juvenile shelter should increase night-monitoring staff, reconfigure the facility to enable proper separation of wards by gender, and institute a random ward-monitoring system.

The director of DESS has forwarded this recommendation to the State of California Community Care Licensing Division for review and assurance that the juvenile shelter's physical plan and staffing ratios meet state regulations.

Additionally, while not required, the DESS has committed to expanded communications with the shelter director and staff to support the success of the existing contract. DESS/CWS management and supervisory staff have implemented regular monthly meetings with shelter staff and will provide relevant training resources which may increase shelter staff's knowledge and skills in providing services to this population.

Yolo County Procurement

01-07 The chief purchasing officer (CPO), county counsel, and the auditor-controller should meet at least quarterly to assess the county's procurement system.

County staff will be recommending a policy council of identified county officials based on the American Bar Association's "2000 Model Procurement Code for State and Local Governments" to adopt and promulgate policies and procedures, consider and decide matters of policy, audit and monitor the implementation of policies and procedures, and consider and implement, as appropriate, recommendations for process improvement. Council members will be in frequent communication until the new system is functioning smoothly, and then will meet as needed.

01-08 The Board of Supervisors should reconsider the amendment to the Administrative Policy Manual that allows the county administrative officer (CAO) to approve $10,000-25,000 service contracts. The CPO is clearly the purchasing professional within the county as prescribed by the State Code. As such, the CPO should have responsibility for all purchasing matters put before the Board of Supervisors.

This recommendation requires further analysis and will be addressed by a study being conducted by an independent consultant engaged by the CAO. County staff expects to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors in December 2001.

01-09 A county procurement manual should be assembled from all relevant materials derived from the County Code and Administrative Policy Manual. A desktop guide and/or computer-generated assistance program would be beneficial both for reference and training.

This recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be addressed by a study being conducted by an experienced consultant engaged by the CAO. Staff expects completion of the manual by December 2001.

01-10 The County Code needs a section detailing a code of ethical conduct by all county administrative employees, with language on how to recognize conflict of interest in all county matters, including procurement. A similar reference should be included prohibiting county employees from accepting gifts and gratuities beyond a reasonable value.

All employees should be informed of the need for ethical conduct. This is one of the assignments of the procurement consultant. Regular training and adminis-

trative directives would be more effective methods of making county employees aware of conflict-of-interest concerns [than the County Code]. [County counsel] will work with the county administrative office to seek direction from the Board of Supervisors on establishing effective means of conflict-of-interest education and a code of ethical conduct.

01-11 Stand-alone procurement software should be developed separate from the current General Ledger system, especially in the vendor listing and updating functions. Alternatively, the county could establish a procurement system which operates as part of an integrated financial network based on the needs of the relevant administrative offices. Electronic transmission of proposals and quotes, bidding, and application to the vendor list merits further study and possible implementation.

This recommendation merits study. There are a number of stand-alone software applications available, but there are major advantages to being a part of the county's overall financial management system (GenLed). A survey of stand-alone applications and the practices of other counties will be prepared by staff for the policy council, and a recommendation will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on the costs, program implications, and possible time line for changes to the present system.

01-12 The duties of the CPO should include participating in the planning and budgeting process, and be so noted in the County Code.

Implemented. The assistant county administrative officer serves a chief procurement officer and also directs the county's budget process. The duties are spelled out in the classification description adopted by the Board of Supervisors. This affords greater flexibility than including such duties in the County Code but has the same board-approved authority.

01-13 The grand jury wholeheartedly encourages and supports the participation of our administrative personnel in professional groups or associations that will assist them in advancing Yolo County's procurement system.

The Central Services Manager, as purchasing agent, is a member of the California Association of Public Purchasing Officers. Staff involved in the procurement process will be encouraged to participate in professional associations and seminars this fiscal year.

01-14 An additional staff person should be considered to assist the CPO in developing and maintaining revisions to the County Code and Administrative Policy Manual, stand-alone software for procurement, a county procurement manual, and basic and advanced procurement training for relevant county personnel.

This recommendation is expected to receive consideration when the procurement consultant makes recommendations regarding staffing of the procurement function.

01-15 The duties and responsibilities of the assistant county administrative officer should be clearly delineated within the County Code, and the integration of the purchasing agent's responsibilities with this office noted. Minimum qualifications need to be established.

The duties, responsibilities, and minimum qualifications of the assistant county administrative officer are spelled out in the classification description adopted by the Board of Supervisors. This affords greater flexibility than including such duties in the County Code but has the same board-approved authority.

01-16 No departments or executive agencies should be exempt from the established procurement system. All authority should be vested to the CPO and so noted in the County Code.

Implemented. Article 10, Chapter 2 of the County Code vests all purchasing authority in the office of the purchasing agent except in cases of emergency. The purchasing agent has been authorized to delegate some procurement authority to department heads. No department or agency is exempt from the established procurement system.

01-17 The County Code should specifically address the delegation of authority by the CPO and the policies and procedures to which those with procurement authority must adhere.

This is one of the assignments of the procurement consultant.

01-18 All changes to the County Code or Administrative Policy Manual should have the advice and consent of the auditor-controller, CPO, and county counsel. The Board of Supervisors should consider and approve all changes.

Changes to the County Code or Administrative Policy Manual occur only after approval by the Board of Supervisors. Department heads (including CPO, county counsel, and auditor-controller) are normally advised of and/or consulted about such changes through memoranda, meetings, or other means. County counsel reviews and approves the form of changes to the County Code.

01-19 A. The County Code should be updated with specific language on competitive bidding procedures. Current economic conditions should be taken into consideration in establishing purchasing thresholds.
B. Sealed bids should be mandated for all purchases over $10,000.

Currently under review by the procurement consultant. The recommendation that sealed bids should be mandated for all purchases and contracts over $10,000 is subject to board review. At present, sealed bids for construction are required over $6,500 and for purchase of goods over $25,000.

01-20 The administration of the bidding and award process (public notice, time periods, bid opening, identical low bids, adequate competition levels, appeals

(APPENDIX: Responses to the Grand Jury 2000-2001– continued on next page)

process, non-collusion affidavits, confidentiality, use of multiple vendors, etc.) needs to be clearly defined in the County Code and Administrative Policy Manual.

The administration of the bidding and award process is largely spelled out in the Public Contract Code. It is possible that the purchasing manual (presently being prepared by the procurement consultant) is the more appropriate location for the details of this process. Policy matters do no need to be included in the County Code.

01-21 Circumstances under which competition can be waived should be defined in the County Code and subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors. Similarly, the CPO's authority to approve or recommend a quote or bid which, based on quality or service issues, may not be the lowest bid, needs to be noted in the County Code. The conditions and reporting structure to the Board of Supervisors need to be defined as well.

This is one of the assignments of the procurement consultant. Policy matters do not need to be included in the County Code.

01-22 The local-vendor preference of 3 percent should be removed from the County Code to assure fair play and to maximize efficiency of tax dollars spent.

Staff will present this recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration.

01-23 The CPO and auditor-controller should include appropriate guidelines for payment criteria and price negotiations in the Administrative Policy Manual and any future procurement manuals or software.

Staff will be reviewing and presenting this recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for their policy consideration. It is possible that the purchasing manual is the more appropriate location for the details of this process. The purchasing manual is one of the assignments of the procurement consultant.

01-24 The Administrative Policy Manual and any future procurement manuals or guides should include policies and procedures which specifically address standard contracts, short-term contracts, rental or lease contracts, multi-year contracts, and option contracts. All multi-year or option contracts should require approval of the Board of Supervisors.

This is one of the assignments of the procurement consultant. The approval for multi-year contracts needs further analysis and may be implemented differently from the recommendation.

01-25 To promote stability and efficiency in a climate of rapidly changing economic conditions, it may be prudent to encourage long-term contracting, especially in areas such as health care and maintenance. The Board of Supervisors should adopt a reasonable contracting term limit which allows the CPO maximum flexibility in obtaining the best overall value.

The county now encourages service contracts for up to three years for stable programs and five years for medical service contracts.

01-26 The auditor-controller's office should participate in all procurement matters and approve budgetary planning and payment schedules before any purchase order or contract is submitted to the Board of Supervisors. All policies and procedures would emphasize the importance of including the auditor-controller's office in the earliest phases of planning for any large purchases of goods or services. This will help ensure Yolo County's long-term economic welfare.

To maintain the independence of the auditor-controller's office for audit purposes, the role of the office relative to procurement matters is advisory only. Department heads should ensure that there are adequate funds before committing to purchases; the auditor-controller should review payment schedules on major purchases to ensure the adequacy of cash flows. Once an effective procurement process is established, auditor-controller review of each contract prior to going to the Board of Supervisors could result in unnecessary delays. In those instances, so long as the procurement process is followed, contract by contract review by the auditor-controller would not seem necessary especially since the county counsel is required by County Code to approve all contracts as to form.

01-27 The County Code should specify standards (including inspection and testing) for goods or services that cost more than a predetermined amount. The CPO or designee should be responsible for enforcing the standards to ensure that the county is receiving the best value for its purchase. All purchase orders or contracts should include penalties for noncompliance.

We agree that there should be a requirement for all purchase orders and contracts to specify standards according to the type of purchases. However, standards should not be predetermined in the County Code.

01-28 The County Code should include all relevant insurance requirements for vendors and service providers. The Risk Management department should help draft this addition.

Staff will be reviewing and presenting this recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for their policy consideration. It is possible that the purchasing manual is the more appropriate location for the details of this process. Insurance requirements are presently prescribed by Yolo County Public Agency Risk Management Authority and are contained in a manual maintained by that agency.

01-29 The County Code should prescribe progressive disciplinary measures for vendors or county employees who intentionally violate the county's policies and procedures.

There should be some penalty for the intentional violation of county policies

and procedures. For vendors, those penalties should be part of the county's contract with the vendor. For employees, those penalties may be spelled out in contracts with collective bargaining representatives, the County Code, or the Administrative Policy Manual. Repeat offenders should receive penalties that are more [severe] than first-time offenders.

01-30 The county should establish an ongoing training program for all essential personnel that annually reviews policies and procedures, laws, and codes.

This is one of the assignments of the procurement consultant.

01-31 The program should provide basic training for those who are new or have minimum procurement responsibilities and advanced training for those intimately involved in procurement.

This is one of the assignments of the procurement consultant.

01-32 Training manuals and/or software should be an integral part of the training program.

This is one of the assignments of the procurement consultant.

01-33 The CPO should be responsible for developing and overseeing procurement training programs. All relevant administrative departments (county counsel, risk management, auditor-controller, information technology, human resources, etc.) should assist in developing and implementing procurement training programs.

This is one of the assignments of the procurement consultant.

01-34 The County Code should be amended to define procurement training programs as the responsibility of the CPO.

Staff will be reviewing and presenting this recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for their policy consideration. It is possible that the Administrative Policy Manual, purchasing manual, or position description is the more appropriate location for the description of the CPO's training responsibilities.

Woodland Community Development Department

01-35 The City of Woodland should continue implementing the MAPCDD remedies promised the 2000–2001 grand jury.

The City of Woodland will continue to implement the MAPCDD remedies as promised.

01-36 The City of Woodland should, in its next budget, allocate the needed funds identified in the MAPCDD.

A number of vacant positions currently exist within the Community Development Department. Organizational restructuring and active recruitment for key positions are underway. The Community Development Department is at critical staffing levels. Workloads and priorities are being evaluated. With the number of changes in progress new organizational dynamics will occur and in time the Management Action Plan goals will be achieved.

01-37 The 2001–2002 grand jury should review the operations of the CDD to determine if the promised remedies have been implemented and if the department is functioning professionally and consistently.

Yolo County Elections

01-38 The county should provide adequate space for the Elections Office to assemble election-day materials, conduct vote counts, and store ballots as required by law.

The county administrative office has collaborated with the county clerk-recorder to provide sufficient space to accommodate the immediate needs of the Elections Office. The county is currently in the process of contracting for services to develop a facility space plan. Included in this plan will be an assessment of facility needs of departments in the county administrative center. The plan will provide options to resolve various departmental space needs, including the needs of the Elections Office.

01-39 The Elections Office should work to improve the accuracy and timeliness of its communications with city clerks.

Sometimes city clerks (among others) pose questions to the Elections Office regarding developing/changing situations, that include incomplete or ambiguous information, or that just don't effectively target the needed information.

Juvenile Hall

01-40 The 2001–2002 grand jury should review the Juvenile Hall to determine if the promising remedies are working.

01-41 In the control room, at the very least, mirrors should be installed that would allow the person assigned to the room and sitting at the desk to glance up and observe the monitors.

A 12" by 18" mirror has been installed in the control room to facilitate staff's observation of the monitors.

Yolo County Jails

01-42 Yolo County should keep hiring until the Monroe and Leinberger detention centers are fully staffed.

The 2000/2001 budget included supplemental funds to add ten correction officer and two sergeant positions. The 2001/02 budget further increased the number of jail staff by adding three correction officer positions. The additional positions will further enhance operations at the adult detention facilities and reduce the need for overtime.